死神探偵シリーズ 1 死神探偵と憂鬱温泉

斎藤岬
サイトウ ミサキ

BIRZ COMICS

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しにがみたんていとゆううつおんせん

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鹿神孝は、昔から行く先々で事件に遭遇、
「死神」と呼ばれている探偵だ。
そんな鹿神が妻・みちる、従業・関と温泉旅行に出かけたが、
着いた早々、死体を発見してしまい……!?
表題作他、2編を収録したミステリー連作集第1弾!!

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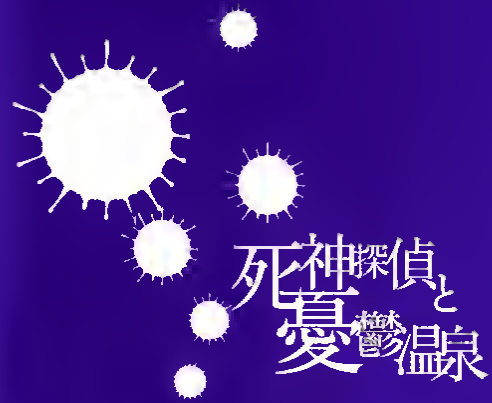

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AH, SEKI.
YO, ASA-CHIN.
TOBU
HELLO, IS SENPAI THERE?
SO, WHERE'S SENPAI?
Over there
POLICE DETECTIVES HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME, I GUESS
I DON'T REALLY HAVE FREE TIME~~ I JUST STOPPED BY ON MY WAY BACK TO THE STATION.
YOU'VE GOT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, SEKI?
FEMALE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT DETECTIVE, TAKAMI ASA

3
8
5
11

ARE YOU GOING SOMEWHERE ON YOUR WINTER BREAK?
I'M NOT TAKING ANY, I HAVE TOO MUCH WORK.
EH, IS THAT TRUE!?
YAY! I'LL TAKE TIME OFF TOO. SO LET'S GO SOMEWHERE TOGETHER!
A PRIVATE DETECTIVE'S WORK IS NEVER DONE, UNLIKE SOME LAZY BONES I KNOW.
crick
コツ
crack
コツ
Eh, SHISHIGAMI-SAN, YOU STILL HAVE SOME VACATION DAYS LEFT, DIDN'T YOU KNOW?

EXCUSE ME, KIRYUU-SAN, WEREN'T YOU SAYING THAT I COULD TAKE SOME TIME OFF AT THE END OF THE YEAR?
IF YOU DON'T HAVE A HONEY-MOON SOON, KENMOCHI MIGHT GET ANGRY!
DON'T YOU WANT TO TAKE A VACATION?
NO, NO, NO, I REALLY WANT ONE, HOWEVER ...
I just wanted to hear that when this guy wasn't around.
SEKI~ IF YOU TAKE OUT A BOOK, PUT IT BACK PROPERLY YOURSELF!

THEN, WHAT ABOUT NANKI?
EH, AT THIS TIME OF YEAR? HOW ABOUT GOING SOMEWHERE LIKE KOU-YASAN?
OI, OI, YOU GUYS,

HOW ABOUT KYOTO?
WOULDN'T IT BE CROWDED DURING NEW YEAR'S?

DID YOU FORGET HOW PEOPLE HAVE BEEN CALLING ME SINCE LONG?
OF COURSE NOT.

"IF THERE IS A MURDER, SHISHIGAMI WILL BE THERE",
"THE MAN WHO CARRIES THE STENCH OF DEATH",
"WHERE SHISHIGAMI SETS HIS FEET, GRASS WILL NOT GROW",
IT'S NOT SHISHIGAMI, BUT "SHINIGAMI"...
YOU'VE BEEN CALLED LIKE THAT A LONG TIME ALREADY.

CONSIDERING HOW MANY YEARS HAVE WE BEEN TOGETHER, THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO FORGET.
THEN! IF YOU GO ON A TRIP WITH ME, IT'LL BE WORRISOME.
EVEN MICHIRU HAS ENCOUNTERED DANGERS IN THE PAST TRAVELING WITH ME.
... THAT'S WHY WE HAVEN'T HAD A HONEYMOON, IT'S SO BO—RING!
SEKI-KUN, SINCE IT'S NO USE, SHALL THE TWO OF US TRAVEL TOGETHER THEN?
ALONE WITH KANEKO-SENPAI—? I'M ENTIRELY OKAY WITH IT, HOWEVER ...
WH-WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING, IDIOT!

IT SHOULD BE FINE BY NOW, SURELY.
YOU EVEN MARRIED ME... RIGHT?
MICHIRU, YOU GOING ON A TRIP TOGETHER WITH A YOUNG, UNMARRIED MAN, DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT
... THEN LET'S GO TOGETHER, KOU-CHAN.
EH?
WHY ARE YOU BRINGING UP MY NAME?
HUH? DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
EVEN IF YOU SAY SUCH A THING... SINCE WE'RE MARRIED, IT'LL BE FINE
SINCE KANEKO-SENPAI WAS OKAY WITH CHANGING HER NAME, ABSOLUTELY.

T/N 'SHISHI' MEANS 'BEAST' AND 'KANE' MEANS 'GOLD'. 'MINAGOROSHI' MEANS 'WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER'.

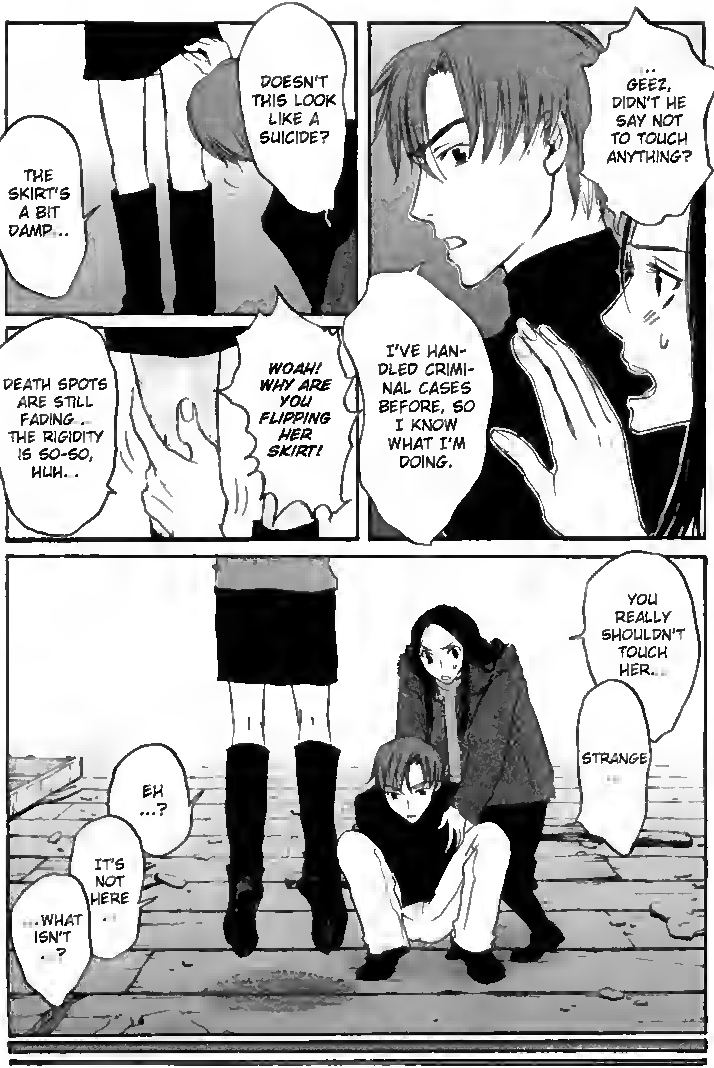
THE "SHISHI" IN SHISHIGAMI-SENPAI AND THE "KANE" IN KANEKO-SENPAI,
WHEN YOU ADD THEM TOGETHER, YOU GET THE CHARACTER FOR "MINAGOROSHI".
I DIDN'T KNOW! THAT'S WHAT WAS SAID ABOUT US?!
Well, that's.
shocked
YOU TWO WERE KNOWN AS THE WORLD-FAMOUS OMINOUS COUPLE THROUGHOUT HIGH SCHOOL.
WHA-WHAT THE~~!!!
Actually is there really a character like that?
THAT'S NOT REALLY A GOOD "ZOKU NO RAKUGAKI" THERE
sakana, sa, i, uyo "fish"
arashi, ran, zure "storm"
ue, _mikasu_ "sail upon"
minagoroshi, ou "wholesale slaughter"
kuru nisa, ku "pain"

IT'S A JOKE...
I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD ONLY BE SAID ABOUT KOU-CHAN...
HAHAHA... NOW YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR ME TO BE CALLED 'SHINIGAMI' EVERYDAY.
AS FOR THE TRIP, LET'S GIVE IT UP...
sitting up
...OKAY, BUT I CAN ALWAYS CHANGE MY SUR-NAME,
IT'S FINE! IT'S FINE, ISN'T IT, KOU-CHAN!
...OI.
WHERE SHOULD WE GO~~
SOMEWHERE NOT TOO FAR WOULD BE NICE...
AH, GEEZ, DO WHAT YOU WANT!

... IT SEEMS I REALLY WAS BORN UNDER THE STAR OF DESTINY WHO DOESN'T WANT ME TO TRAVEL.
NO... THIS MIGHT BE MY FAULT ...
ALTHOUGH CHANGING YOUR NAME SHOULD BE FINE...
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, WHEN TWO PEOPLE BECOME 'SHISHIGAMI' ...
I wonder if 'Shini-gami' will increase too...
HEY, YOU TWO, STAY FOCUSED!
PRESERVE THE CRIME SCENE,
DON'T GET ALL DE-PRESSED.

AND CONTACT THE POLICE!

.....
AH, HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
4 HOURS ... 6 MINUTES
A YOUNG WOMAN ABOUT 24 YEARS OLD PERHAPS?
HER TONGUE... IT'S HANGING OUT...
THE SOURCE OF HEMORRHAGE IS
YOU SHOULDN'T TOUCH HER, YOU KNOW.
... TSK ...
DON'T 'TSK' ME!


DOESN'T THIS LOOK LIKE A SUICIDE?
THE SKIRT'S A BIT DAMP...
...GEEZ, DIDN'T HE SAY NOT TO TOUCH ANYTHING?
I'VE HANDLED CRIMINAL CASES BEFORE, SO I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
WOAH! WHY ARE YOU FLIPPING HER SKIRT!
DEATH SPOTS ARE STILL FADING... THE RIGIDITY IS SO-SO, HUH..
YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T TOUCH HER...
STRANGE...
EH ...?
IT'S NOT HERE...
...WHAT ISN'T...?

...SO, YOU WERE THE ONES TO DISCOVER THE BODY?
YES.
THAT IS... IT WAS ME WHO DID.
SEKI MEGUMU-SAN... FROM THE TOKYO METROPOLI-TAN POLICE DEPART-MENT?
I'M A DETEC-TIVE OF JURIS-DICTION.
AND YOUR WIFE, SHISHIGAMI MICHIRU-SAN.
SHISHI-GAMI TAKASHI-SAN... OH, A PRIVATE DETEC-TIVE...
DID YOU KNOW THIS PERSON?
NO, WE DON'T KNOW HER.

SO, YOU CAME HERE FROM TOKYO FOR VACATION TODAY.
YOU ARRIVED AT HALF PAST 3. BY 4 YOU REACHED THIS AREA AND WHEN YOU ENTERED THIS CABIN, YOU FOUND THIS PERSON HANGING BY THE NECK... YOU SAY.
OKAY. THANK YOU FOR HELPING ME OUT WITH THAT.
IF THE CRIME SCENE HAPPENED TO BE DISTURBED IT'D BE A BIG PROBLEM
HAVE THE PEOPLE FROM THE INN BEEN INFORMED... SEKI-SAN?
IT WOULD CAUSE UNNECESSARY COMMOTION IF I LET THE STAFF KNOW, SO I ONLY TOLD THE INNKEEPER AND CAME HERE
SPEAKING OF TROUBLESOME

IT'S ABOUT 400 METERS FROM THE PARKING LOT, IF YOU FOLLOW THE FOOTPATH.
WHY IS AN INN AT THE BOTTOM OF A VALLEY LIKE THIS...
THE DE-CEASED SOMEHOW MADE IT UP THERE WITHOUT HAVING TO CLIMB ON ANYTHING
AND THEN DIED, HUH
THIS WAS BUILT DURING THE EDO ERA TO SERVE BOTH ONSEN AND MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING VISITORS, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TOLD BY THE INNKEEPER.
YEAH... EVEN THOUGH THAT DOES MAKE SENSE, IT'S NOT VERY EASY TO REACH BY TRAFFIC NOWADAYS.

...
YES SIR...
SINCE IT'S COLD HERE, LET'S HEAD INTO THE INN TO HEAR YOUR STORY. I THINK THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE WILL ARRIVE SOON.
WELL, CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT...
WELL, I'M NOT SURE.
SHE ISN'T ONE OF OUR EMPLOYEES...
PERHAPS SHE WAS ONE OF OUR GUESTS...

I'LL TRY TO ASCERTAIN WHICH OF MY GUESTS CHECKED IN WITH A COMPANION...
SO THIS PERSON ISN'T FROM AROUND HERE THEN ...?
HASHIMOTO-SAN, DOES THE WOMAN LOOK FAMILIAR TO YOU?
HMM... NO, SHE DOESN'T.
NO, YUMOTO CAN'T EVEN BE CALLED A NEIGHBORHOOD, SINCE THERE ARE NO HOUSES AROUND...
THE CLOSEST NEIGHBORING HOUSE IS A 30 MINUTE DRIVE BY CAR.
IT MUST BE SUICIDE AFTER ALL...
IS THAT REALLY THE CASE?

...HAA... I WONDER IF SEKI WILL EVER BE ABLE TO BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED DETECTIVE FOR CENTRAL...
NU ~~~?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING, SENPAI!
AS I SAID, PROMOTION WILL BE A DIFFICULT THING.
EH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DO YOU THINK THIS IS A MURDER CASE, SENPAI?
YOUR POWERS OF OBSERVATION SUCK, SEKI.

HOW LONG WERE YOU AT THE CRIME SCENE?
DID YOU LOOK AT THE FLOOR BELOW THE CORPSE?
IT WAS A SUICIDE.
WHAT ?
AH, GOOD WORK.
HAVE YOU FIGURED OUT THE IDENTITY OF THE DE-CEASED?
UNKNOWN FOR THE TIME BEING
LET'S LOWER THE BODY DOWN TO THE FLOOR
AH, WAI-WAIT ...!!

DID THE MEDICAL OFFICER EVEN LOOK AT THE CRIME SCENE PROPERLY?!
ARE YOU A DOCTOR?
THE FIRST ONE TO DISCOVER THE BODY.
IT IS A MURDER.
AND THIS PERSON IS?
HA-HANG ON SIR, PLEASE DON'T SAY SOMETHING LIKE 'MURDER' SO THOUGHTLESSLY.
EH ...
NOPE... I'M A PRIVATE DETECTIVE.
EH, DO YOU ONLY CARE ABOUT YOUR VISITORS?
... PLEASE DO NOT INTERFERE IF YOU'RE NOT PART OF THIS INVESTIGATION.
IT'S JUST THAT, IF THE NEWS GETS OUT THAT THERE WAS A DEAD BODY HERE, VISITORS WILL FEEL DISGUSTED, AND WOULD WANT TO LEAVE. AND SINCE I HAVE TWO PARTIES ARRIVING SOON..

FINE ...
WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON NUMEROUS SUICIDE CASES ALREADY, UNLIKE AN AMATEUR LIKE YOU.
WHEN IT COMES TO ENCOUNTERING DEAD BODIES, COULD ANYONE OUT DO KOU-CHAN?
SENPAI, HOW MANY HAVE YOU HANDLED AGAIN?
SO ...
SO ANNOYING ...
traumatized
WELL, THE DECEASED SINCE SHE WAS GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE PERHAPS SHE WAS TRAVELING BY HERSELF.
IT'S ALSO GOING TO SNOW, SO IT SEEMS BETTER TO PULL OUT EARLY
AL-RIGHT, LET'S CARRY OUT THE STRETCHER.

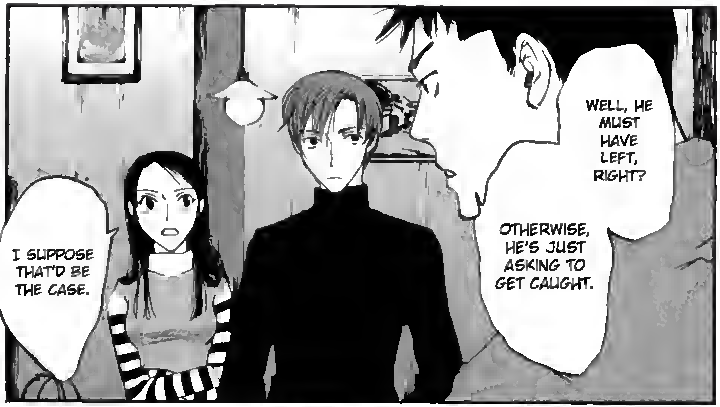
SHISHIGAMI-SAN AND SEKI-SAN WILL BE STAYING OVERNIGHT, RIGHT?
I'LL ASK FOR YOUR COOP-ERATION AGAIN WHEN I CALL ON YOU TOMORROW MORNING.
Tomorrow, you say... uhu
THEN, WE'RE DONE HERE.
... I'LL GO BACK AS WELL.
EH ...!
... THEY LEFT...

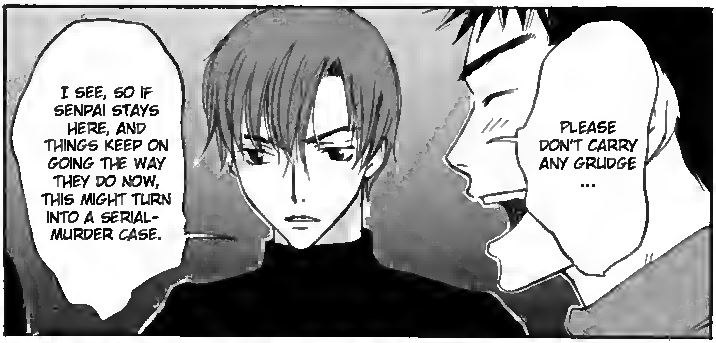
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING! IT'S NOT AS IF IT'S KOU-CHAN'S FAULT!
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT THE 'SHINIGAMI' COMMENT FROM BEFORE?
THE LONGER I'M HERE, THE MORE DEAD BODIES WE'LL HAVE TO COUNT...
IF I GO BACK NOW, IT MAY END WITH ONLY ONE.
HEY, SEKI... LET'S CONTINUE WHAT WE WERE DISCUSSING BEFORE.
BUT THERE WAS NOTHING ON THE FLOOR.
THE FLOOR... THERE WAS NO TRACE OF MOISTURE, RIGHT?
IT WOULD BE STRANGE NOT TO FIND ANY URINE BENEATH THEM, WHEN SOMEONE HANGS THEMSELF.
INCONTINENCE IS OFTEN SEEN BY PEOPLE WHO SUDDENLY DIE. WITH THIS CORPSE, THERE WAS A TRACE OF IT ON HER SKIRT.

I THINK IT'LL BECOME CLEAR IF YOU EXAMINE THE FOOTPRINTS IN THAT CABIN
SHE WAS MOVED.. THIS IS NOT THE PLACE WHERE SHE DIED.
YOU MEAN 'SOMEONE' CARRIED HER HERE ...?
YEAH, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF SHE DIED IN THIS CABIN OR ELSEWHERE
SHE WAS MURDERED, AND THEN HUNG OVER THERE.
THIS IS A MURDER CASE

YOU BELONG TO THE METROPOLITAN POLICE FORCE, DON'T YOU!
IF THE GUNMA PREFECTURAL POLICE'S OFFICERS ARE CONTACTED BY SOMEBODY WHO KNOWS ME FROM YOUR OFFICE, THEY'LL BE WILLING TO LISTEN.
NO-NO WAY...!
THEN, WHO SHOULD WE TRY TO CALL... THE PEOPLE OF THE INVESTIGATION TEAM AREN'T WILLING TO LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY
AH, ENZAN-SAN.
...WILL IT BE OKAY?
AH, I SEE, SENPAI IS SMART.
I GOT PERMISSION FROM THE HIGHER-UPS AS REQUIRED.
What, you're at an onsen?!

AH
deadline
Since joining the police force I have not gone on an excursion even once
EVEN FUTAHASHI-SAN SAID, 'TAKE A PROPER REST'.
COME BACK QUICKLY, YOU FOOL!!
You are twenty years too early to take a vacation!!
mutterings
THAT DICKHEAD GROUP OF DETECTIVES!
IT WAS NO USE.
I WONDER IF THE CULPRIT IS STILL HERE ..


WELL, HE MUST HAVE LEFT, RIGHT?
OTHERWISE, HE'S JUST ASKING TO GET CAUGHT.
I SUPPOSE THAT'D BE THE CASE.


PLEASE DON'T CARRY ANY GRUDGE ...
I SEE, SO IF SENPAI STAYS HERE, AND THINGS KEEP ON GOING THE WAY THEY DO NOW, THIS MIGHT TURN INTO A SERIAL-MURDER CASE.

ISN'T THAT THE REASON WHY I SAID I SHOULD RETURN HOME?!
Please don't get angry~~~

DIDN'T THE POLICE OFFICER SAY EARLIER, HE'D COME BACK IN THE MORNING?
WOULDN'T IT BE BAD IF WE WEREN'T HERE---?
MICHIRU, LET'S GO BACK.
NO WAY-----! AT LEAST STAY FOR ONE NIGHT!
EH? LEAVING ME BEHIND, ALONE?
I'LL GIVE YOU GUYS THE CAR, AND I'LL TAKE THE BUS...
THERE ISN'T ANOTHER BUS
Hoping he doesn't do anything weird to Michiru
... THEN, I'LL BE THE ONE TO RETURN. IF THAT OVER THERE IS A SUICIDE, I'M THINKING IT SHOULD BE FINE IF IT'S JUST ME WHO'S NOT HERE
rattle, rattle, rattle
... THEN, MICHIRU, CAN YOU BRING ME TO YUMOTO STATION?
ガラガラガラ...
EH ...
THE 5.05 PM WAS THE LAST ONE.

ヒロ
whoooosh
MAN, THIS IS A PROBLEM ...
WELL, I GIVE IN, I GIVE IN.
THE BLIZZARD IS IN FULL FORCE.
WHEW IT'S WARM INSIDE!
I'VE GOT A DISTINCTLY BAD PREMONITION.
TAKE OUT THE CAR? AH, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
VISIBILITY'S ALREADY CLOSE TO ZERO.

EH? CANCEL YOUR RESERVATION AND DESCEND THE MOUNTAIN NOW?
HAHAHA... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
IF WE'D DEPARTED 30 MINUTES LATER, WE WOULD'VE BEEN SCREWED, RIGHT?
YEP, WE'RE STRANDED FOR NOW...
PERHAPS WE COULD
EVEN TRYING TO DESCEND TO THE PARKING LOT WOULD BE RISKY RIGHT NOW. I CAN'T GUARANTEE YOU WOULD MAKE IT THERE ALIVE.
The 'confined in a mountain villa (hot-spring hotel) on a snowy mountain' cliche?!

fwoooosh...
Serpa, it seems there's been some sort of explosion in your brain.
Hahaha... that's one amazing face you're pulling.
I'm not sure~~ Even if you can guarantee the safety of my life while I stay here, I cannot say the same for the other people around me!!
IT'S OKAY, NOTHING MORE WILL HAPPEN.
I KNOW, LET'S SOAK IN THE BATH.
It's not my fault... it's really not my fault...
AH, YEP.
HI, DID YOU GUYS COME TO SKI?

← Professional habit of interrogation
AND STILL SO YOUNG! STUDENTS, AM I RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT, WE'RE A UNIVERSITY CLUB.
I DON'T SEE A LOT OF LUGGAGE YOU'RE STAYING FOR A FEW DAYS?
OF COURSE.
HAHAHA, SHOULD WE MAKE INTRODUCTIONS?
ARE YOU A SALARYMAN?
WHEN I WAS IN UNIVERSITY, AND SINCE I WAS IN JUDO, I'VE NEVER BEEN AROUND ANY FEMALE PRESENCE, EVEN NOW...
HOW NICE, AND WITH A PRETTY WOMAN, TOO---
I WONDER WHETHER TERASAWA'S COLD IS ALRIGHT.
AH, BUT RIGHT NOW, CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE IT TOUGH, DON'T THEY? I'M ACTUALLY AIMING TO BE ONE AS WELL.
JUST A LOWLY CIVIL SERVANT.

I WONDER IF SHE'S SLEEPING LIKE WE TOLD HER TO.
KITANO IS THERE, IT SHOULD BE FINE.
SOMEONE STAYED BEHIND DURING THE DAY?
YEAH... TERASAWA, SHE CAUGHT A COLD ...
EH... DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO TERASAWA?
THAT GIRL, DID SHE HAVE SHOULDER-LENGTH HAIR AND A MEDIUM BUILD?
NO WAY ...
IT'S TERA-SAWA! THAT'S TERASAWA ---!

click click
HUH? THERE'S NO SOUND
I-IT CAN'T BE ...!
HM ...?
dead silence...
The phone line's been cut...
Just as I feared.
... KOU-CHAN ...
THIS IS A REMOTE PLACE, BUT LET'S TRY MY CELL PHONE ...

IT'S NO USE, WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW.
ビョオオオオ。
Wailing Wind
I WONDER IF THE CRIME WAS COMMITED BY A PERSON WHO WAS JUST PASSING THROUGH.
BESIDES THOSE STAYING OVERNIGHT, THIS ONSEN DOESN'T HAVE ANY OTHER GUESTS.
IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE.
... I GUESS THE ONLY ONES HERE BESIDES US, ARE THOSE KIDS.

KITANO, WEREN'T YOU WITH TERASAWA?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING, KITANO?
SHE WAS WATCHING TV IN THE ROOM ...
SINCE IT WAS ANNOYING ME, I WENT TO ANOTHER ROOM ...
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE TERASAWA WAS MISSING UNTIL WE CAME BACK?
YEAH ...
WAS THERE ANYTHING THAT SHE SAID, THAT SOUNDED SUICIDAL?
I'M NOT SURE ...

T/N | TSUKKOMI MEANS "RAPE".

HEY, SENPAI... THIS INCIDENT, IT'S NOT ROBBERY OR "TSUKKOMI". AND THERE'S NOT A STRONG IMPRESSION OF IT BEING THE RESULT OF SOMEONE HAVING A GRUDGE TOWARDS HER ...

SO CARE-LESS!
SORRY ...
HEY, YOU ARE,

The Cheeky Lively Scans Library

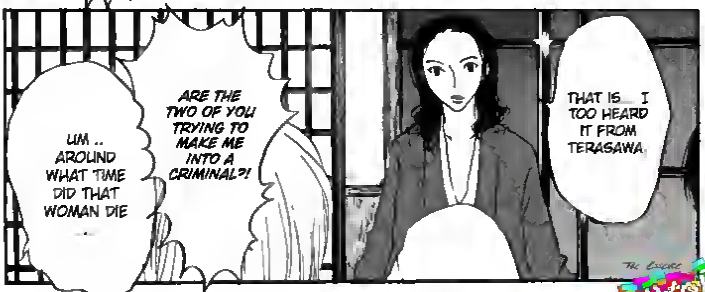
YOU GUYS ARE IDIOTS.
HEY SEKI, THOSE KIDS HEARD A LOT, DIDN'T THEY?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT UNTIL YOU RUN OUT OF BREATH, YOU KNOW.

THOSE KIDS, THEY'RE FIGHTING IN THE ROOM?
YEAH, AND PRETTY BADLY TOO.
'YOU'RE A KILLER,' AND STUFF LIKE THAT THEY'RE CURSING AT EACH OTHER QUITE FIERCELY.
AND SINCE SHE STAYED IN THE HOTEL THE WHOLE DAY, SHE'S BEING TREATED AS THE MAIN SUSPECT ...
KITANO KUMIKO
IT WASN'T ME!

YOU'RE THE MOST SUSPICIOUS. YOU WERE HERE WITH HER DURING THE DAY, WEREN'T YOU?
I HAD NO REASON TO KILL YUUKO!
IS THAT SO? THE MORNING BEFORE WE WENT OUT, I KNOW YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH TERASAWA.
YOU WERE GOING TO KILL HER, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE WRONG, THAT WAS...
SINCE TERASAWA STOLE YOUR BOYFRIEND, YOU WERE FURIOUS, RIGHT?
NOW, NOW, CALM DOWN

EH
OFFICER, IS IT ALRIGHT IF I STAY IN YOUR ROOM TONIGHT?
I DON'T WANT TO BE WITH A MURDERER.
...EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, NAKAMURA HAD A MOTIVE TO KILL YUUKO AS WELL ...

YUUKO SAID SHE KNEW NAKAMURA'S SECRET.
IT WAS BEING USED TO EXTORT YOU, WASN'T IT? BY YUUKO ...
JUST-JUST A MINUTE! DON'T GO AROUND UTTERING NONSENSE.

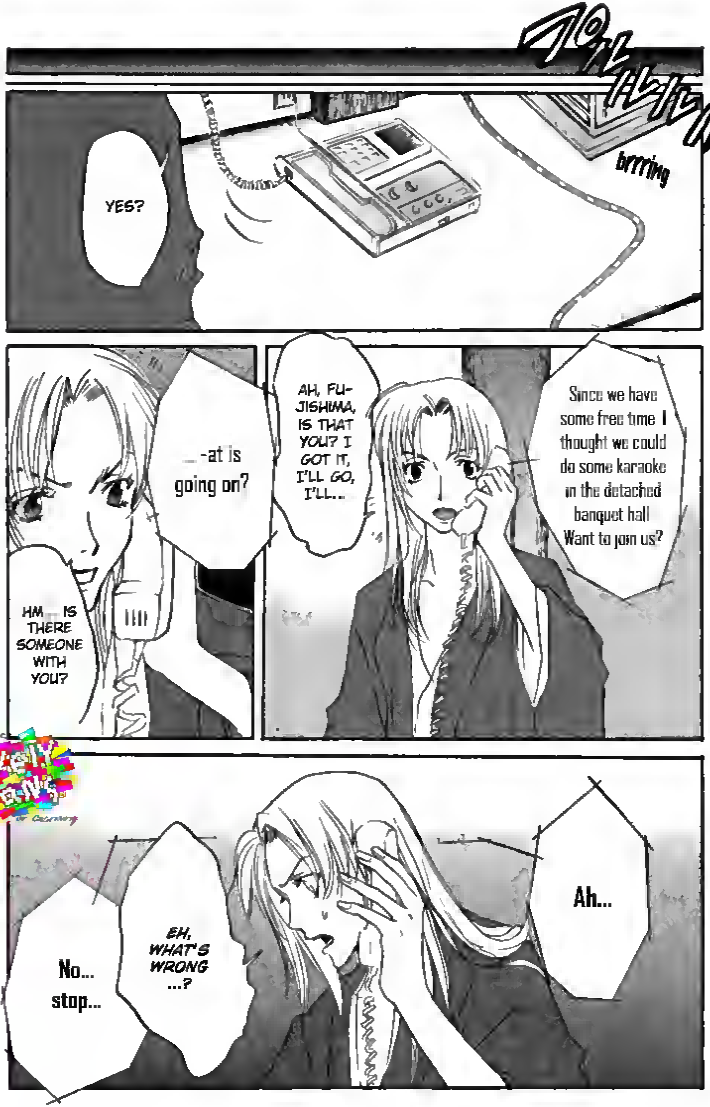

THAT IS... I TOO HEARD IT FROM TERASAWA.
ARE THE TWO OF YOU TRYING TO MAKE ME INTO A CRIMINAL?!
UM .. AROUND WHAT TIME DID THAT WOMAN DIE ...

THE TIME... SENPAI, HOW ABOUT IT...
YEAH, I WASN'T PRESENT FOR THE AUTOPSY BY THE CORONER, SO IT'S A BIT ROUGH...
JUDGING FROM THE RIGOR MORTIS AND DEATH SPOTS, SHE WAS DISCOVERED BETWEEN 2 TO 8 HOURS AFTER THE TIME OF DEATH...
..BEFORE WE WENT OUT TO SKI IN THE MORNING, SHE WAS KILLED... IT'S POSSIBLE TO SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
SO ANYONE COULD HAVE KILLED HER... ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
.....
.....
AH—

jump up
ALRIGHT ALREADY!
LET'S NOT START MAKING BOGIES OUT OF EACH OTHER.
WE MUST ALSO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF THERE BEING AN OUTSIDER HERE. .
DON'T YOU THINK IT'S POSSIBLE A PERSON PASSING BY COMMITTED THE CRIME, AND DISGUISED IT BY HANGING HER BY THE NECK ...
stern
HEY YOU! YOU DON'T NEED TO PURPOSELY BRING THAT UP AGAIN!
.....

T/N: I ARBITRARILY DECIDED TO TRANSLATE HER NAME AS THIS, SINCE I COULDN'T FIND A PROPER TRANSLATION FOR HER ORIGINAL NAME

THE VICTIM, TERASAWA YUUKO, WAS AT THE INN BECAUSE OF A COLD. BUT WHY DID KITANO KUMIKO* STAY BEHIND?
SHE CLAIMED SHE HAD MENSTRUAL PAINS ...
HEY, SEKI ...
MENSTRUAL PAINS TO THE EXTENT THAT YOU CAN'T GO OUT, SOUNDS AWFUL..
FOR SOME WHO GET IT HEAVY, IT'S SEVERE.
UM, INNKEEPER, IS THERE COFFEE-MILK AVAILABLE?
.....?
WHAT?
AH, YES..
AH, YES, THERE IS.
SHOULD I BRING SOME OVER?


YES?
brrring
...-at is going on?
HM... IS THERE SOMEONE WITH YOU?
AH, FU-JISHIMA, IS THAT YOU? I GOT IT, I'LL GO, I'LL...
Since we have some free time I thought we could do some karaoke in the detached banquet hall Want to join us?
EH, WHAT'S WRONG ...?
No... stop...
Ah...

!!
GYAAAAH
WOAH, FUJISHIMA?!
HM ...?
JUST NOW, DID SOMEONE YELL 'GYAH!' OR SOMETHING..?
NO ...

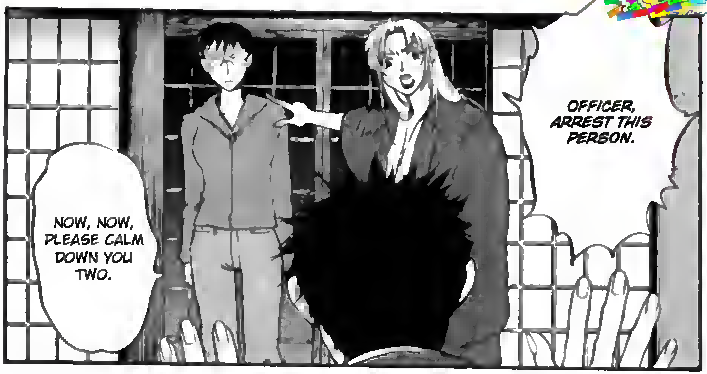
AH, KANEKO-SENPAI, ISN'T IT JUST THE TV? THERE'S ONE OVER THERE...
I'M SORRY, IS THE VOLUME TOO LOUD?
AH, IMAGAWA-KUN,
EVERYONE IS SCAT-TERED AROUND.
WHAT IS EVERYONE DOING?
...WHAT WAS THAT ..?
NAKAMURA-CHAN..?
WAH!
DUBAM
I THINK SAKURAI IS IN HIS ROOM, AS FOR THE GIRLS, I DON'T KNOW ...

stomp stomp stomp
stomp stomp
WHAT...? SHE'S COME BACK.
WHAT IS SHE DOING IN SUCH A HURRY
WHY ...?
JUST HURRY UP!!!
OFFICER, COME WITH ME!
stomp
stomp
stomp
WHAT IS IT?!
WO-WOAH ...!?

BANQUET HALL
TURTLE ROOM
DINING ROOM
ENTERTAINMENT ROOM
OKAWARAMOYU
scamper
scamper
IS SOMEONE THERE?
THE BANQUET HALL?
WHAT'S HERE?
OH ...

A-AH...
UWAH...
NO GOOD...
SHE'S ALREADY DEAD...
WAIT HERE WHILE I GO IN.
FU-JISHIMA!!
EH?! FU-JISHIMA, WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!
HEY... WHAT HAP-PENED?

...
HAAH
HOLD ON! NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO GET DEPRESSED, YOU KNOW!
MICHIRU... AM I SOME KIND OF WEAPON OR SOMETHING...?
YOU'RE THE CULPRIT, AREN'T YOU?!
JUST BY EXISTING, I SEEM TO KILL PEOPLE OFF...
WHAT KIND OF STUPID DRIBBLE IS THAT ...
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE APART FROM YOU!


OFFICER, ARREST THIS PERSON.
NOW, NOW, PLEASE CALM DOWN YOU TWO.

EARLIER, WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT TERASAWA-SAN, KANEKO-SENPAI SAID IT COULD BE A CASE OF SOMEONE PASSING BY AND COMMITTING THE CRIME ...
WE'RE STILL NOT CERTAIN THE CULPRIT IS SOMEONE WHO'S IN HERE.

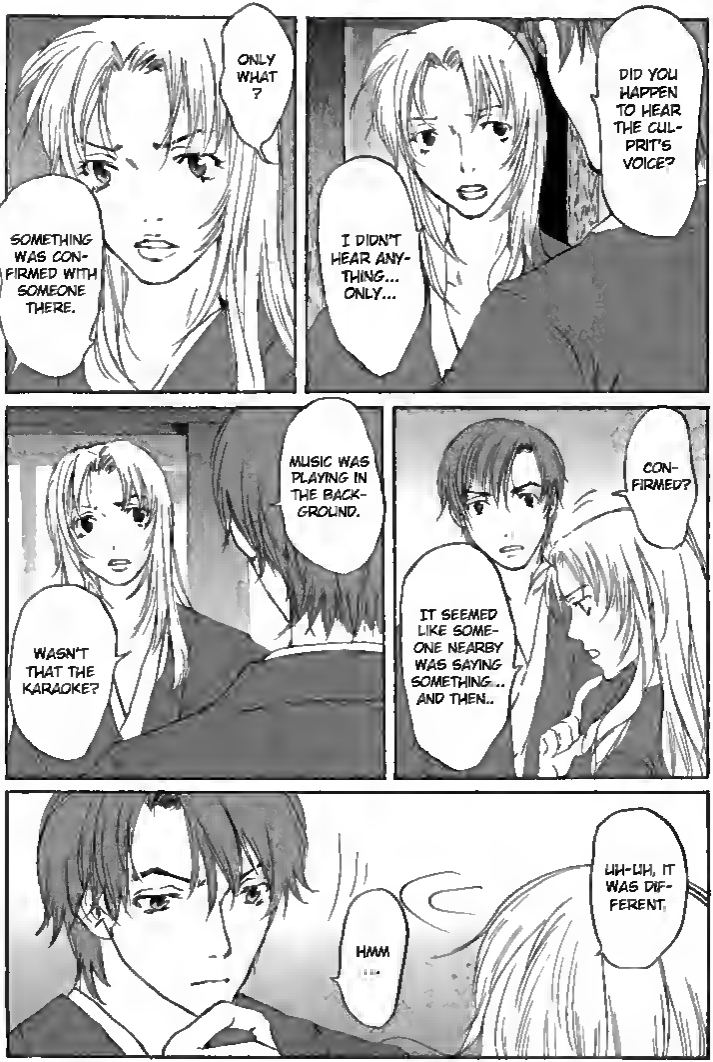
WELL, IF WE'RE ASSUMING THE PERSON IS SOMEONE ON THE OUTSIDE,
THEY WOULD HAVE HAD TO COME BEFORE THE SNOWSTORM BEGAN...
SOMEONE PASSING THROUGH... HOW COULD THAT POSSIBLY BE THE CASE?
COMING ALONG IN THIS SNOWSTORM, AND THEN LEAVING DURING THE SNOWSTORM, WHO COULD PULL OFF SUCH A TRICK.

WHOEVER IT IS, THEY ARE STILL AT THE HOTEL.
IT'S POSSIBLE SOMEONE HERE IS A COLD-BLOODED KILLER.
IT'S BEST TO CONFIRM WHO IS HERE AND WHO IS NOT BEFORE WE START SUSPECTING ONE OF OUR OWN.
LET'S SEE, RIGHT NOW THERE ARE THE THREE OF US, AND YOU GUYS...ERM... FIVE PERSONS.
THE PEOPLE OF THE INN ARE, LET'S SEE, THE INNKEEPER AND HIS WIFE AND...
MY SON AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW.

SEKI AND THE MEN OVER THERE WITH THAT PERSON'S SON WILL FORM A SEARCH PARTY.
THE REST OF US WILL REMAIN IN THE LOBBY.
SINCE THIS EVENING, OTHER THAN THE PEOPLE HERE AND THE LATE FUJISHIMA-SAN, HAS NO ONE ELSE BEEN SEEN?
... YES, THAT IS THE CASE.
NATIONAL LEVEL? WHOA, AMAZING!
KOU-CHAN, IN THE PAST, WASN'T THERE ONE TIME THAT YOU FAINTED WHILE YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR A CULPRIT?
SENPAI, YOU'RE GOING TO STAY?
IF NATIONAL-LEVEL JUDO MEMBER SEKI-KUN IS THERE, THEN I AM NOT NECESSARY.
muffled...
Faint ?
YOU SHOULD BE QUIET ABOUT THOSE THINGS!

ALRIGHT. THE SEARCH PARTY IS HEADING OUT.
OKAY, WE'LL BE IN THE LOBBY THEN.
BE CARE-FUL, AND STAY TO-GETHER.
YES SIR!
LATER THEN.
OFFICER, HOW ABOUT THE CLEANING TOOL CLOSET OVER THERE?
I WOULD HATE IT IF MIDORI-SAN'S CORPSE CAME TUMBL-ING OUT.
WHO THE HECK IS THAT?
KOU-CHAN
DEAR, YOU DON'T THINK THIS IS THE WORK OF A COLD-BLOODED KILLER, DO YOU?
HM —

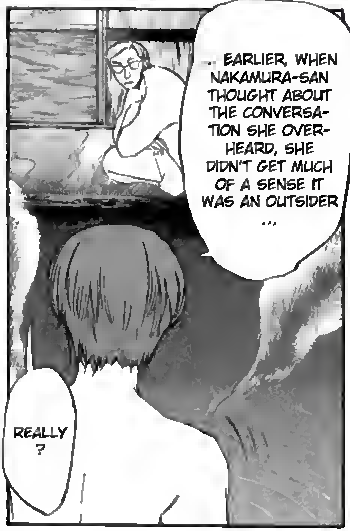
IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THAT, TOO.
AND PUTTING MY OWN OPINIONS ASIDE, I WON'T DENY IT IS A POSSIBILITY.
HMPH
AH, NAKAMURA-SAN.
IS IT FROM YOUR EXPERTISE AS A DETECTIVE?
IT CAN BE FROM ANYTHING REALLY... BEING A DETECTIVE ISN'T SOMETHING AWESOME.
WHEN FUJISHIMA-SAN WAS STABBED, DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING THROUGH THE TELEPHONE?
WHAT IS IT?


ONLY WHAT ?
SOMETHING WAS CONFIRMED WITH SOMEONE THERE.
DID YOU HAPPEN TO HEAR THE CULPRIT'S VOICE?
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING... ONLY...
MUSIC WAS PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND.
WASN'T THAT THE KARAOKE?
CONFIRMED?
IT SEEMED LIKE SOMEONE NEARBY WAS SAYING SOMETHING... AND THEN..
UH-UH, IT WAS DIFFERENT.
HMM ...

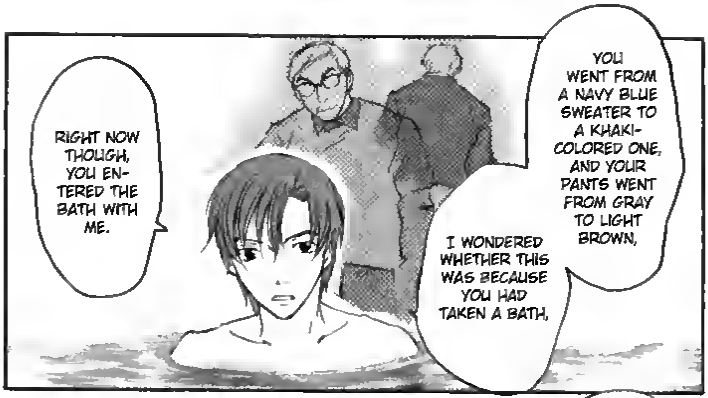
EARLIER, YOU SAID KITANO-SAN WAS THE CULPRIT, WHY WOULD THAT BE THE CASE?
BECAUSE SHE'S THE ONE BEHIND TERASAWA'S MURDER
I SAID IT WASN'T LIKE THAT!
IT WAS YOU, WASN'T IT? SAYING SHE WAS STABBED WHILE ON THE INTERNAL LINE, THAT WAS A LIE, WASN'T IT?
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I WOULD LIE ABOUT!
THEN, WHY WERE YOU LATE COMING HERE? YOU WERE COVERING UP EVIDENCE WEREN'T YOU?!
I WAS NOT!
NOW, NOW, YOU TWO ...
EVIDENCE, HUH ...

EXCUSE ME, I WAS THINKING OF ENTERING THE BATH AREA, HOWEVER ...
LET'S LEAVE THAT UNTIL THE SEARCH PARTY COMES BACK.
THANK YOU KINDLY ..
..I'LL GO AS WELL, IT'S DANGEROUS TO BE ALONE.
...IS THE CULPRIT REALLY SOMEONE WHO IS HERE RIGHT NOW ..

The Cursed Jigsaw Pieces of Calvary


... EARLIER, WHEN NAKAMURA-SAN THOUGHT ABOUT THE CONVERSATION SHE OVERHEARD, SHE DIDN'T GET MUCH OF A SENSE IT WAS AN OUTSIDER ...
REALLY ?

I GET THE FEELING THAT IT'S YOU
HASHIMOTO-SAN,
AFTER DINNER, DIDN'T YOU CHANGE INTO A FULL NEW SET OF CLOTHING?
THIS WAS AFTER NAKAMURA-SAN AND KITANO-SAN WERE QUARRELLING IN THEIR ROOM.


YOU WENT FROM A NAVY BLUE SWEATER TO A KHAKI-COLORED ONE, AND YOUR PANTS WENT FROM GRAY TO LIGHT BROWN,
I WONDERED WHETHER THIS WAS BECAUSE YOU HAD TAKEN A BATH,
RIGHT NOW THOUGH, YOU ENTERED THE BATH WITH ME.

ONE WOULD EXPECT THE GUESTS TO ENTER THE BATH MANY TIMES,
TO SAY THE SAME FOR THOSE WHO WORK AT SUCH A PLACE... FOR SOME REASON, IT FEELS UNNATURAL...
IF ONE STABS SOMEONE IN SUCH A WAY, THEN NATURALLY THERE WILL BE BLOOD SPLATTER AS A RESULT. BECAUSE OF THAT, A CHANGE OF CLOTHES BECOMES NECESSARY, DOESN'T IT...

FURTHERMORE, THERE'S THAT CABIN WHERE TERASAWA WAS KILLED.
IT SEEMED TO ME THE LOCK ON THE CABIN WASN'T BEING USED UNTIL RECENTLY.
glint
EH...

KN-KNIFE...! IT'S DANGEROUS FOR YOU TO BE SWINGING THAT AROUND...!
.....
UWAA!!!
swish
TO... TO DIE LOOKING LIKE THIS IS...
AT... AT LEAST GIVE ME A TOWEL...

stopped...
splish
splash
splash
SO...
SOMEBODY !!!

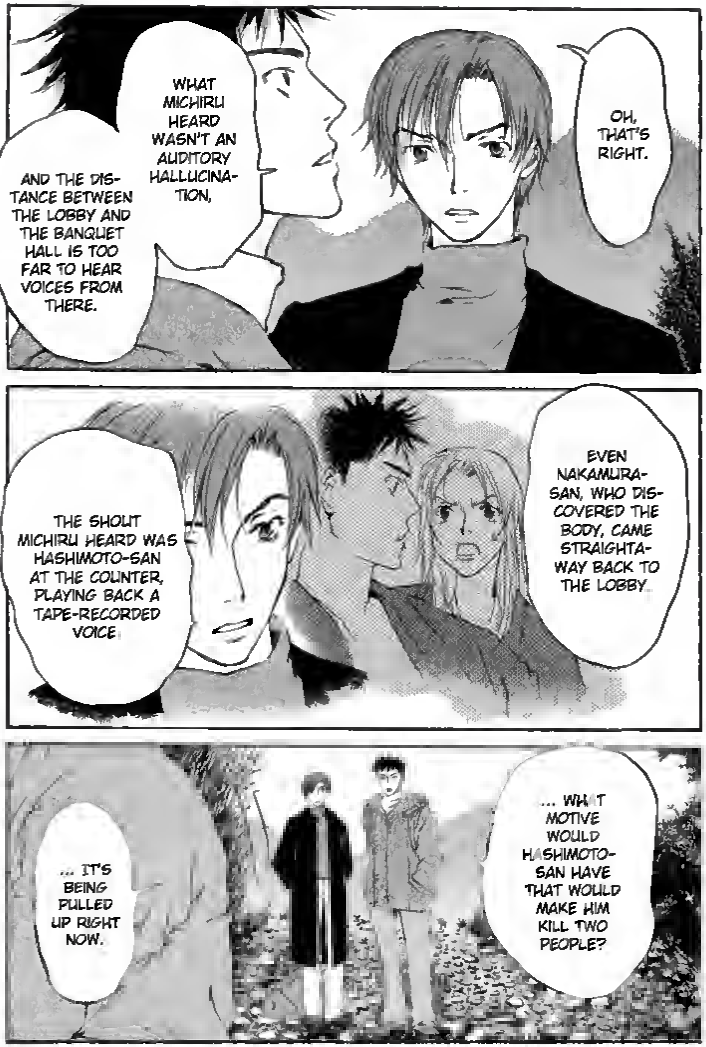
crash
Kaaaaaaaaah!!
!!!
whoooosh
OH, SENPAI!
.....

WHAT'S GOING ON ...?
A-AH, KNIFE .. KNI ..
...OOOOOH.
ker-splash
bam
RAAAAAH!

SECURED —!
フッフッフッフッ...
...OI, OI, HE'S GOING TO DROWN...
glug, glug glug...
...WHEN THE SECOND VICTIM, FUJISHIMA-SAN WAS MURDERED, WASN'T THE INN-KEEPER WITH US?
IT WAS A TAPE.

FUJISHIMA-SAN WAS SETTING UP FOR KARAOKE IN THAT BANQUET HALL.
BECAUSE OF THE EARLIER INCIDENT, SHE WAS TOO SCARED TO SLEEP THAT NIGHT, SO SHE MIGHT HAVE INTENDED TO SING THE NIGHT AWAY.
THE ONE WHO HELPED FUJISHIMA-SAN SET UP WAS HASHIMOTO-SAN, THE INNKEEPER.
WHILE HELPING HER WITH THE PREPARATION FOR KARAOKE, HE OFFERED TO SEND THE MESSAGE, 'LET'S DO KARAOKE' TO NAKAMURA-SAN
WHILE FUJISHIMA-SAN WAS BEING MURDERED, HE RECORDED THE EXCHANGE...
WHEN NAKAMURA-SAN WAS TALKING ON THE PHONE IN THE LOBBY, HE PLAYED A PORTION OF THAT TAPE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE LINE.
SENPAI, HOW DID YOU FIGURE THAT OUT?

THERE WASN'T A TELEVISION OR CD PLAYER AVAILABLE IN THE ROOM WHERE KARAOKE WAS BEING SET UP.
BUT THE KARAOKE MONITOR WAS.
MUSIC.
WHEN FUJISHIMA-SAN WAS SLAIN, THERE WAS MUSIC THAT WASN'T KARAOKE PLAYING IN THE BACKGROUND, OR SO NAKAMURA-SAN SAID.
WAS THERE SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
.. AND THEN I REMEMBERED THE EXCHANGE YOU AND MICHIRU HAD AT THE TIME OF FUJISHIMA'S MURDER.
THEN HASHIMOTO-SAN SAID, 'WAS THE SOUND TOO LOUD?' AND TURNED DOWN THE TV VOLUME.
'AH, KANEKO-SENPAI, ISN'T THAT JUST THE TV? THERE'S ONE OVER THERE.'
'JUST NOW, WAS THERE A SCREAM?'


OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
WHAT MICHIRU HEARD WASN'T AN AUDITORY HALLUCINATION,
AND THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE LOBBY AND THE BANQUET HALL IS TOO FAR TO HEAR VOICES FROM THERE.
EVEN NAKAMURA-SAN, WHO DISCOVERED THE BODY, CAME STRAIGHTAWAY BACK TO THE LOBBY.
THE SHOUT MICHIRU HEARD WAS HASHIMOTO-SAN AT THE COUNTER, PLAYING BACK A TAPE-RECORDED VOICE.
... WHAT MOTIVE WOULD HASHIMOTO-SAN HAVE THAT WOULD MAKE HIM KILL TWO PEOPLE?
... IT'S BEING PULLED UP RIGHT NOW.

UWAH ...
-crumble-
A CORPSE ...?!
FROM WHAT I HEARD EARLIER, IT SEEMS HASHIMOTO-SAN KILLED HER A WEEK AGO.
... I WONDER IF SHE WAS A PAST MISTRESS?
APPARENTLY, TERASAWA-SAN WAS TAKING A WALK HERE AND FOUND THE BODY.

THEY KEEP A DOG HERE, AND THE DOG MANAGED TO DIG UP THE BODY.
TERASAWA-SAN WAS SURPRISED AND REPORTED IT TO HASHIMOTO-SAN...
...AND THEN HE SILENCED HER BY KILLING HER... SCARY.
THEN, WHAT ABOUT FUJISHIMA-SAN?
BECAUSE THE INCIDENT WITH TERASAWA-SAN COULDN'T BE PASSED OFF AS AN ACCIDENT, HE INTENDED TO PIN THE CRIME ON KITANO-SAN, WHO HAD STAYED BEHIND THAT DAY... AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW IT SEEMS.
THERE ENDED UP BEING THREE CORPSES, HUH ..
... HM? ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THIS TIME AROUND? IF SENPAI HAD DIED TOO, THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN FOUR BODIES---

YOU SHOULD THANK ME FOR THE HELP I PROVIDED.
IF YOU HADN'T INVITED ME ALONG ON THIS TRIP IN THE FIRST PLACE, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT PUTTING ME THROUGH SUCH AN EXPERIENCE!
IN A GOOD DETECTIVE STORY, WHEN THE DETECTIVE REVEALS HIS DEDUCTIONS, HE GATHERS EVERYONE TOGETHER, HOWEVER,
THAT'S IN ORDER TO PROTECT HIMSELF ...
...like I would know such a thing.
SHOULD I BE CARRYING AROUND A SATELLITE PHONE EVERYWHERE I GO, FROM NOW ON?

...KOU-CHAN, YOU ALWAYS HAVE SUCH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE.
EVEN IF I DO CARRY AROUND SOMETHING LIKE THAT, FOR SURE IT'LL BREAK ALONG THE WAY.
NO GOOD, NO GOOD, WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF I TAKE AN AIRPLANE OR A SHIP?
IT'LL TAKE ONLY ONE HIT, JUST ONE HIT.
AH, WHAT ABOUT GOING ABROAD RATHER THAN SOMEWHERE DOMESTIC?
AND YOURS IS TOO POSITIVE!
AH, TRAVELING IS NO GOOD! I'M NOT GOING ON ANY MORE TRIPS!
What takes one hit...

GOING BACK...
THAT KIND OF TRAVELING IS NOT GONNA HAPPEN.
IT MIGHT BE ALRIGHT IF IT'S JUST ME AND SENPAI...
GOING BACK, HUH..
AW, MAN.
END

CHAPTER 1
THE SHINIGAMI DETECTIVE AND THE MELANCHOLIC ONSEN

TRANSLATOR: JU-SHI
PROOFREADER: EUCALYPTA
CLEANER: PHANTOMOUTLOOK
TYPESETTER: AL_KAZE69
QCER: ANNEX & KIYIYA

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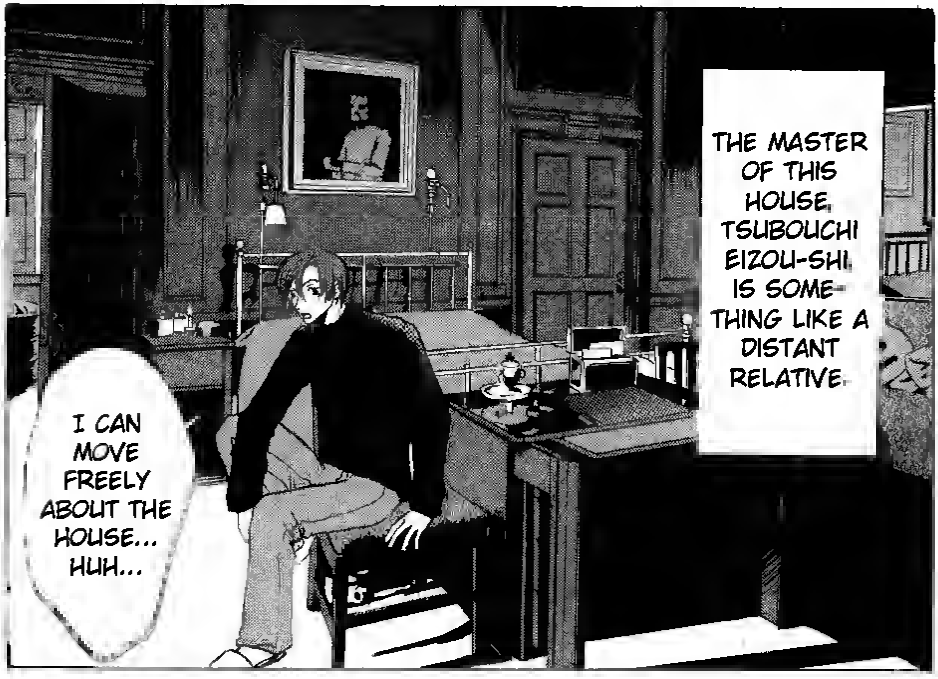
【UNCHANGING DAUGHTER】
FIRST PART
I HAVE BEEN CALLED TO AN OLD, LARGE MANSION.
WEL-COME ...
I'M SORRY YOU'VE HAD TO COME ALL THIS WAY.

THIS WAY PLEASE.
PARDON THE INTRUSION.
HERE WE ARE.
EXCUSE ME.

...HE PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT.
MAY I HAVE A LOOK AT HIS FACE?
OF COURSE.
DURING THE DAY YESTERDAY, HIS CONDITION TOOK A SUDDEN TURN FOR THE WORSE.
I'M SORRY. IF ONLY I HAD COME A LITTLE EARLIER ...

SHISHIGA-MI-SAN, PLEASE TAKE THIS.
MADAM.
I UNDER-STAND.
THIS IS THE LETTER YOUR HUS-BAND LEFT BEHIND ...
YES ...

I'M SORRY, I HAVE TO MAKE PREPARATIONS FOR THE FUNERAL NOW.
I WILL SHOW YOU TO THE GUEST ROOM.
SHISHIGAMI-SAN,


THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE, TSUBOUCHI EIZOU-SHI, IS SOMETHING LIKE A DISTANT RELATIVE.
I CAN MOVE FREELY ABOUT THE HOUSE... HUH...

clack
YOSHIKO,
I WAS ASKED BY EIZOU-SHI'S WIFE, YOSHIKO-SAN, TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER OF THIS LETTER.
IT WAS PRESSED BE-TWEEN THE PAGES OF A BOOK, LAYING ON THE DESK IN THE STUDY ROOM. THE CONTENT OF IT IS NOT FULLY UNDERSTOOD.
YOU MAY DO AS YOU LIKE WITH "THAT".
THE DAUGH-TER PREVI-OUSLY LOOKED AFTER HAS SOMETHING TO GIVE TO YOU.
AND WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSELY, YOU'LL SEE THE DAUGHTER HASN'T CHANGED ONE BIT SINCE THAT TIME. SURPRISINGLY.

HIS WIFE SAID SHE DID NOT UNDER-STAND THE MEANING OF WHAT HE HAD WRITTEN.
'THAT' ...HUH.
WHAT IS THIS SO-CALLED 'THAT' ...
... A THIEF-SAN?

UWAAAH!
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ENTER THE ROOM OF OJII-CHAMA.
HAHAHA, I'M NOT A THIEF.
I'M A DETECTIVE. YOUR GREAT-GRANDMA HIRED ME.
OJII-CHAMA ... ARE YOU EIZOU-SAN'S GREAT-GRAND DAUGHTER ...?
BEING A THIEF IS BAD.
DETEC-TIVE?
THAT'S RIGHT, A DETECTIVE. SINCE I'VE BEEN ASKED TO SEARCH FOR SOME-THING, I WAS TOLD I COULD GO ANYWHERE I WANTED INSIDE THE HOUSE.

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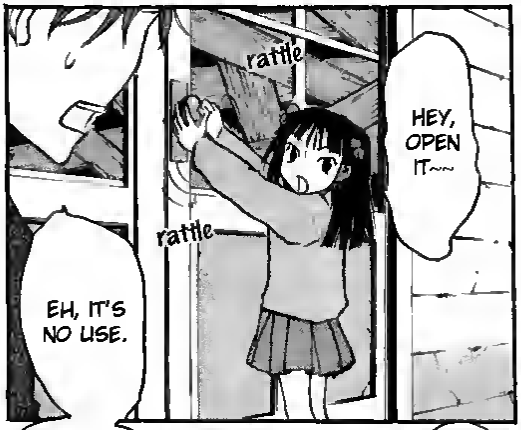
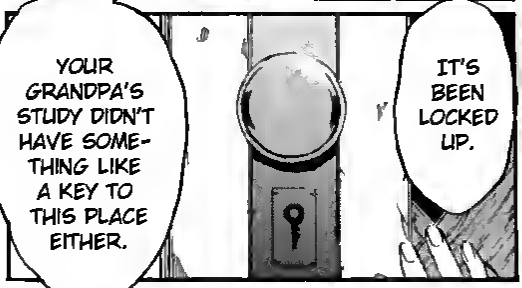
CAN YUKI HELP YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?
I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TOO.
YOU CAN'T GO LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.
... ISN'T THAT THE TRUTH ...
... 'SOMETHING TO GIVE',
clatter
THE STUDY DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING PROMISING, NOR IS THERE A DIARY ...
clatter
clatter
clatter
THAT'S DANGEROUS, YUKI-CHAN.
HM ...

'...THE DAUGHTER PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER HAS SOMETHING TO GIVE TO YOU...'
.....
...THE 'DAUGHTER'... IT COULDN'T BE THIS CHILD.
HM?
THAT'S OJII-CHAMA'S HOUSE.
WHAT'S THAT BUILDING ...?
YOUR GRAND-PA'S? WHY A DETACHED BUILDING ...
MY MAMA WOULD GET MAD IF I WENT THERE, SO I'VE NEVER BEEN INSIDE.

HEY,
HM?
LET'S TAKE A LOOK.
OJI-CHAN, IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO GO WHEREVER YOU WANT, RIGHT?
...IS IT REALLY OKAY TO GO IN WITHOUT LETTING ANYONE KNOW...
IT'S FINE.





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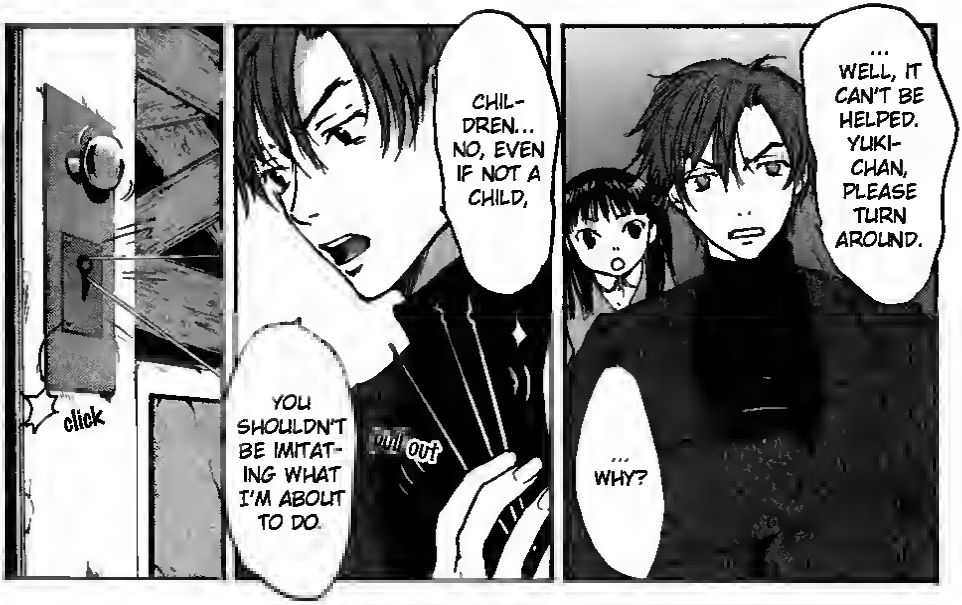
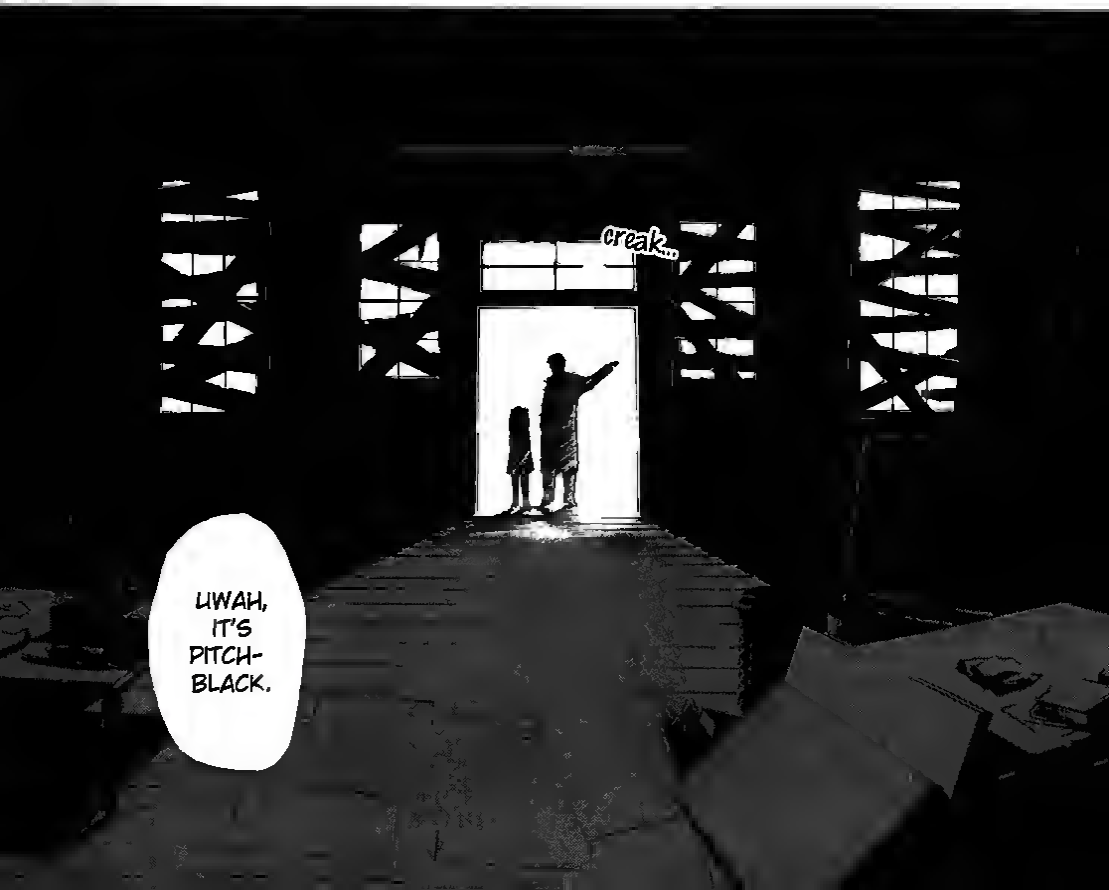
ANYWAY, WE SHOULDN'T BE HERE. LET'S GO BACK, GO BACK.
SCAREDY -CAT!
YOU'RE AFRAID THAT MONSTERS WILL COME OUT.
YUKI ISN'T AFRAID.
annoyed
.....
ISN'T OJI-CHAN A DETECTIVE?
GREAT DETECTIVES DON'T TURN AWAY AND GO BACK.
... GREAT DETECTIVES, HUH. USING SUCH WORDS TO INFLUENCE ME... REALLY.


click
CHIL-
DREN...
NO, EVEN
IF NOT A
CHILD,
pull out
YOU
SHOULDN'T
BE IMITAT-
ING WHAT
I'M ABOUT
TO DO.
...
WELL, IT
CAN'T BE
HELPED.
YUKI-
CHAN,
PLEASE
TURN
AROUND.
...
WHY?


creak...
UWAH,
IT'S
PITCH-
BLACK.

...YOU AL-RIGHT?
Ouch.
...HM? OIL PAINT SUPPLIES ...?
thud
AH!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE ...
IS IT AN ART STUDIO ...
.....
cough
cough
I SHOULD BE ABLE REMOVE THE WINDOW-BOARDS THIS WAY, RATHER THAN BY USING A FLASHLIGHT.
...IT'S NO GOOD. IT'S TOO DARK. I'LL GO GRAB A CLAW TOOL.

crack

crack

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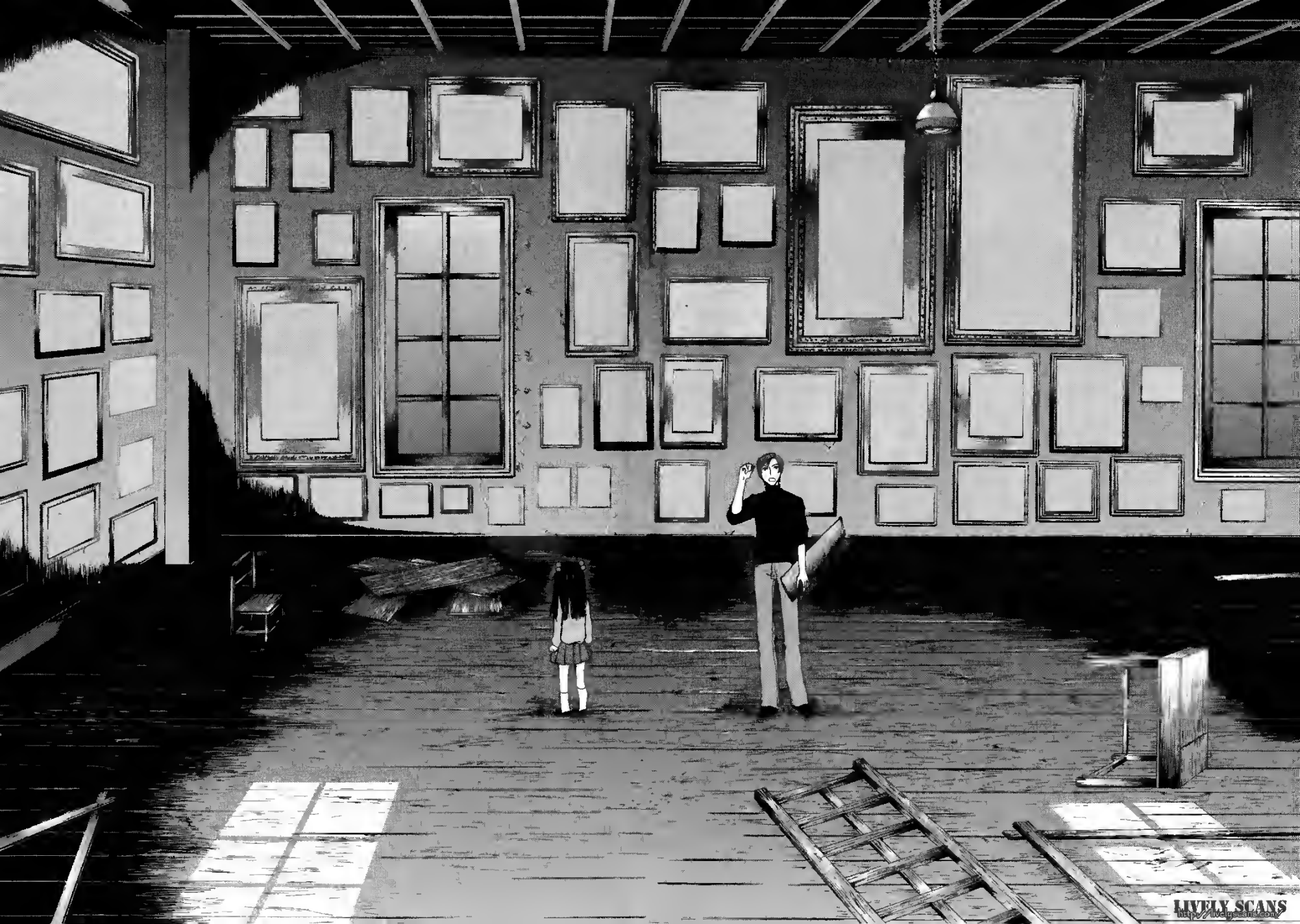
thump
THAT'S DANGER-OUS.
thump
IT'S PITCH-BLACK HERE AS WELL...
step
step
step
AH. HEY THERE!
OJI-CHAN. OPEN THE WINDOW.
.....
creak
creak
AH,

HM?
A PAINT-ING.
crack
BELOW IS AN ART STUDIO, SO MAYBE IT'S A PAINTING MADE BY EIZOU-SHI.
THERE'S ONE HERE AS WELL.
THERE'S A HUGE PAINT-ING HERE.
AND HERE,
AND HERE,

EVEN IF YOU TELL ME TO HURRY, THIS IS FAIRLY HARD WORK YOU KNOW.
HURRY, HURRY!
OJI-CHAN, OJI-CHAN, HURRY UP WITH THE WINDOW!
Yeah, yeah!
crack
THERE WE GO ...
LAST ONE ...
UWAH!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PAINTINGS
...
THEY'RE ALL POTRAITS OF A WOMEN ...?

THEY'RE ALL FROM THE SAME PERSON.
EH ...
IT'S TRUE ...
THEY'RE ALL THE SAME WOMAN...
WHO IS IT?
NO IDEA.

I WONDER IF THIS GIRL DOESN'T RESEMBLE HER JUST A LITTLE ...
YUKI-CHAN, I WONDER IF YOUR GREAT-GRANDPA PAINTED ALL OF THESE.
THERE'S QUITE A NUMBER OF THEM.
rattle...

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OBAA-CHAN.
YOU WERE... HERE TOO...
EX-EXCUSE US. WE ENTERED WITHOUT ASKING FIRST.
IT'S FINE.
HOWEVER, THERE'S NOTHING HERE OTHER THAN THESE PAINTINGS.
UM ...
WHO IS THE WOMAN IN THESE PAINTINGS?
THERE'S SUCH A NUMBER OF THEM ...

AH ...
I'VE BEEN THINKING OF DISPOSING OF THIS PLACE,
COULD THEY POSSI-BLY BE OF YOU ...
THEY'RE NOT OF ME.
EVER SINCE MY HUSBAND BECAME ILL...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT ANYMORE,
THIS ...

END

CHAPTER 2
UNCHANGING DAUGHTER
(FIRST PART)

TRANSLATOR: JU-SHI
PROOFREADER: EUCALYPTA
CLEANER: LOL4NEVER
TYPESETTER: AL_KAZE69
QCER: ANNEX

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[CHANGING DAUGHTER]
LATTER PART

BLOOD?!
BLOOD COMING FROM THE PAINTING ...
SPURT

NO WAY ...
COULD THERE BE SOME-THING BEHIND IT ...
RATTLE
NGH,

BREAK
HACK
HACK

THERE JUST HAPPENS TO BE A RUSTY WATER PIPE INSIDE THE WALL, AND WATER CAME RUSHING OUT OF IT WHEN YOU MADE THE GAP.
THANK GOODNESS. WHAT WOULD WE HAVE DONE IF IT HAD BEEN A HUMAN BURIED INSIDE THERE ...
IT'S NOT THAT ...
PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH A THING ...
WHO IN THE WORLD IS THE WOMAN IN THESE PAINTINGS? AND TO SAY YOU DON'T WANT TO SEE HER ANYMORE IS ...
WELL ...
MADAM, ...

I'M SORRY, I MUST GO.
U-UM ...
SOME RELATIVES HAVE ARRIVED.
UNDERSTOOD.
She left

WANT TO GO LOOK AROUND SOME MORE?
YEAH.
BUT NOT HERE ...
THERE'S NOTHING HERE.
ON BOTH THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS, THERE'S NOTHING BUT PAINTING SUPPLIES LEFT ...
YUKI'S TUMMY IS HUNGRY ...

SORRY, SORRY,
AT ANY RATE, THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYTHING IN THE HOUSE ANYWAYS ...
SOMETHING SMELLS LIKE CHEESE HERE.
.. THAT SO?
YUKI-CHAN, IT'S BE-CAUSE YOU'RE HUNGRY, RIGHT?
YUKI HATES CHEESE.
...OH, DEAR, YUKI, YOUR HANDS AND FACE ARE PITCH-BLACK.
I'M SORRY, I'M SURE MY CHILD WAS A NUISANCE TO YOU ...
NOT AT ALL.

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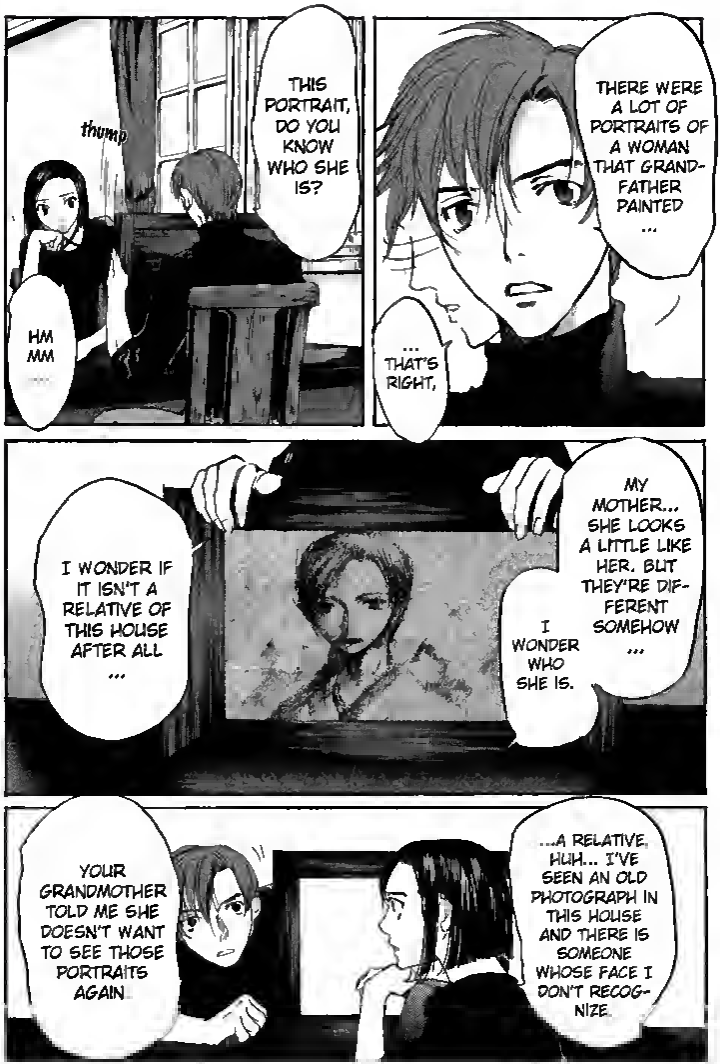
UWAH!
YOU'RE PITCH-BLACK, TOO!
Ha ha ha
MAY I SPEAK TO YUKI-CHAN'S MOTHER FOR A BIT...?
SU-SURE ...
EH, YOU WENT INTO OJII-CHAN'S HOUSE?
I'VE BEEN CURIOUS ABOUT IT FOR A LONG TIME AS WELL... WAS THERE ANYTHING THERE?
IT WAS AN ART STUDIO.


THIS PORTRAIT, DO YOU KNOW WHO SHE IS?
thump
HM MM ...
THERE WERE A LOT OF PORTRAITS OF A WOMAN THAT GRAND-FATHER PAINTED ...
... THAT'S RIGHT,
MY MOTHER... SHE LOOKS A LITTLE LIKE HER. BUT THEY'RE DIF-FERENT SOMEHOW ...
I WONDER WHO SHE IS.
I WONDER IF IT ISN'T A RELATIVE OF THIS HOUSE AFTER ALL ...
...A RELATIVE, HUH... I'VE SEEN AN OLD PHOTOGRAPH IN THIS HOUSE AND THERE IS SOMEONE WHOSE FACE I DON'T RECOG-NIZE.
YOUR GRANDMOTHER TOLD ME SHE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE THOSE PORTRAITS AGAIN.

HMM... I SEE ...
PERHAPS... THE PERSON WAS OJII-CHAN'S LONG-AGO LOVER.
OF COURSE, SUCH AN IMPOR-TANT LOOKING THING WOULDN'T BE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS ...
SHISHIG-AMI-SAN,
NOTH-ING.
THERE'S NOTH-ING.
Thief?

I DON'T THINK IT WILL BE FOUND SO EASILY, EVEN WITH ME AND MY CHILD HELPING. YOU'VE LOOKED FOR IT PLENTY ALREADY.
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE IN SUCH A HURRY ...
YES?
HUH ...
I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT...
YOU'RE TIRED, I'M SURE. SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A REST FOR TODAY?
... SOME-HOW, IT'S A STRANGE PAINTING.

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EVEN SO, THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGELY VIVID ABOUT IT.
WHAT IS IT ...
IS IT THE COMPO-SITION, OR...
WELL, EIZOU-SAN WASN'T A PROFES-SIONAL PAINTER ...
SHE IS LOOKING AT SOME-THING IN THIS DI-RECTION.
pop up
RIGHT, RIGHT, IT'S LIKE SHE'S LOOKING AT SOME-THING ...
EH ?!
YUKI-CHAN!
DID OJI-CHAN FIND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR?

WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE AN ALL-NIGHT VIGIL IS INTER-ESTING ...
HM ...?
...YUKI-CHAN, YOUR MOTHER WILL GET ANGRY AGAIN IF SHE KNEW YOU WERE HERE.
BUT IT'S BORING OVER THERE.
SHE IS LOOKING ...
LOOKING ...
AT WHAT ...?

NORMALLY, A PORTRAIT LOOKS IN THE DIRECTION OF ITS LINE-OF-SIGHT. NOT BE TURNED AWAY FROM IT.
WHEN YOU MEET HER EYES, IT GIVES OFF AN UNCANNY FEELING.
THE PAINTINGS HERE, EVEN THOSE THAT DO NOT MAKE EYE CONTACT, SEEM TO HAVE A FOCUS POINT.
THE PAINTINGS HERE ARE ALL GAZING AT SOMETHING.
I SEE ...

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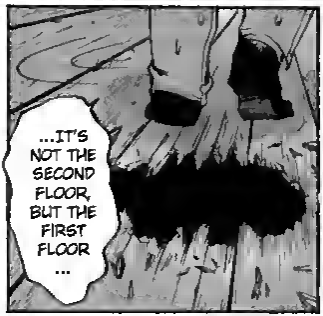
IF YOU LINK THE LINES OF SIGHT OF ALL THE PAINTINGS, THIS BECOMES THE LOCATION
MOST LIKELY, EIZOU-SHI CREATED ALL THESE PAINTINGS FOR THIS REASON.
I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS IT TOOK.
...YOU MAY DO AS YOU LIKE WITH "THAT".
THE DAUGHTER PREVIOUSLY LOOKED AFTER HAS SOMETHING TO GIVE TO YOU...
THAT'S ...

WHAT-EVER IS UNDER HERE


...IT'S NOT THE SECOND FLOOR, BUT THE FIRST FLOOR ...

HACK
UNDER HERE ...
HACK
HACK
.....

UGH ...

A CORPSE ...
WHAT'S THIS ...

...IT'S TOO PURE TO HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED FOR A LONG TIME...
IT'S BEEN SOAKED IN WATER WHICH HAS ACCUMULATED UNDER THE FLOOR AND TURNED INTO GRAVE WAX*
*THE STATE OF A BODY IN [illegible] WITH HIGH HUMIDITY AND POOR AIR CIRCULATION. T/N: SPECIFICALLY, FATS IN THE BODY BECOME WAX, ALSO KNOWN AS ADIPOCERE

THE HANDS ARE EXPOSED TO AIR, AND THUS ARE CORRUPTED
glitter...
ALTHOUGH I'VE SEEN SEVERAL BODIES LIKE THIS BEFORE, IT'S THE FIRST TIME SEEING ONE STILL SO PURE
THE FERMENTATION IS WHAT SMELLS LIKE CHEESE

AN EMERALD BROOCH ...
SOME-THING TO GIVE... IS IT THIS...?
Splash
'AND WHEN YOU LOOK CLOSELY, YOU'LL SEE THE DAUGH-TER HASN'T CHANGED ONE BIT SINCE THAT TIME, SURPRIS-INGLY...'
...THIS CORPSE IS...
WHOOSH

BLAZING...
THE PAINTINGS ...
crackle
EH!
crash
CRAP, THIS PLACE IS MADE OF WOOD ...
.....

.....
Haa
...
Haa

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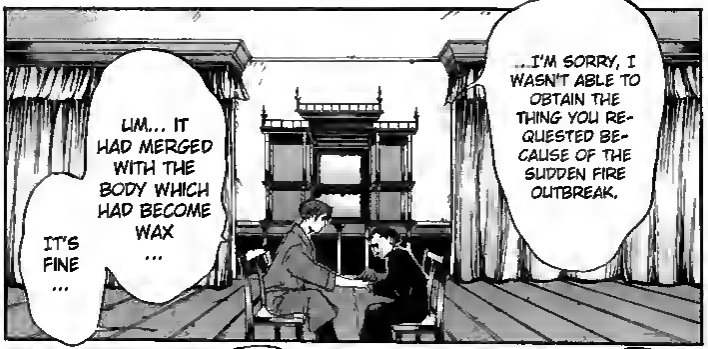
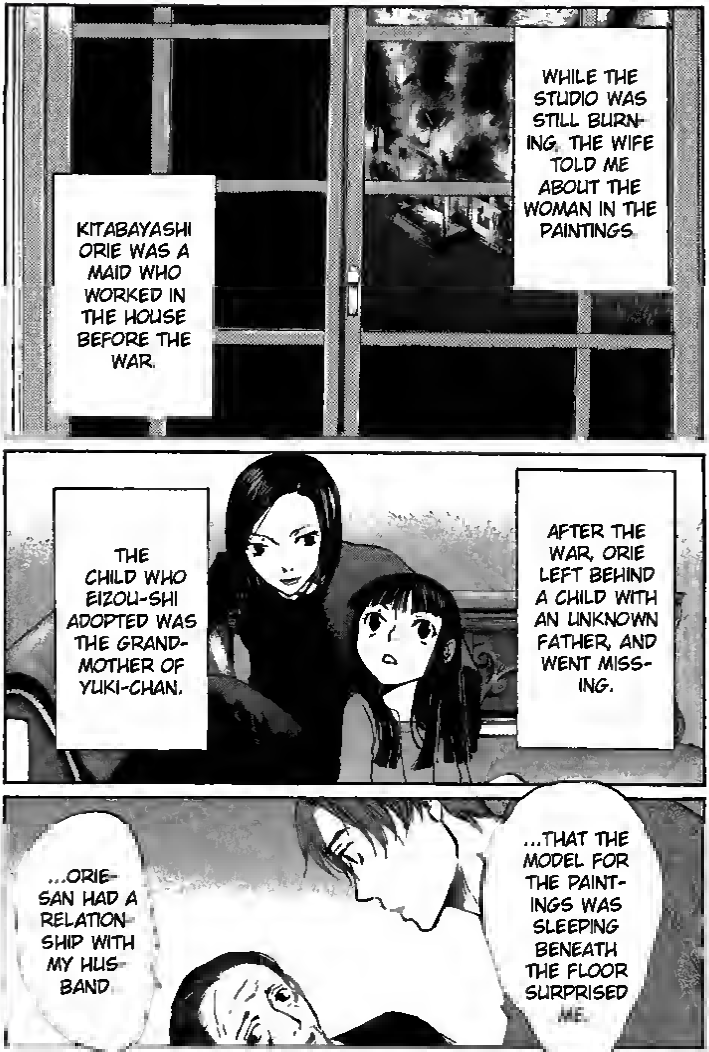
ゴオオ
……


...I'M SORRY, I WASN'T ABLE TO OBTAIN THE THING YOU REQUESTED BECAUSE OF THE SUDDEN FIRE OUTBREAK.
UM... IT HAD MERGED WITH THE BODY WHICH HAD BECOME WAX ...
IT'S FINE ...

I'M GLAD SHISHIGAMI-SAN IS OKAY.
THOSE PORTRAITS AND ..
THAT AS WELL, I DON'T NEED TO LOOK AT IT ANYMORE ...
……


KITABAYASHI ORIE WAS A MAID WHO WORKED IN THE HOUSE BEFORE THE WAR.
WHILE THE STUDIO WAS STILL BURNING, THE WIFE TOLD ME ABOUT THE WOMAN IN THE PAINTINGS.
THE CHILD WHO EIZOU-SHI ADOPTED WAS THE GRANDMOTHER OF YUKI-CHAN.
AFTER THE WAR, ORIE LEFT BEHIND A CHILD WITH AN UNKNOWN FATHER, AND WENT MISSING.
...ORIE-SAN HAD A RELATIONSHIP WITH MY HUSBAND
...THAT THE MODEL FOR THE PAINTINGS WAS SLEEPING BENEATH THE FLOOR SURPRISED ME.

A MISTAKE HAPPENED, AND ORIE-SAN GAVE BIRTH TO MY HUSBAND'S CHILD... ORIE-SAN MAY HAVE THREATENED MY HUSBAND.
MY HUSB-AND KILLED ORIE-SAN AND HID HER UNDER THAT FLOOR ...
ORIE SAN... WAS THERE. ...
.....
ALL THOSE PAINTINGS WERE MADE FOR ORIE-SAN'S ME-MORIAL I GUESS...

FROM THE RUINS OF THE STUDIO'S FIRE, THE BODY OF A WOMAN WAS REVEALED.
THE CAUSE OF DEATH WAS UNKNOWN BECAUSE THE FIRE HAD BURNT IT AWAY.
"MY HUSBAND KILLED HER," IS WHAT THE WIFE SAID,
THOUGH IT MIGHT BE SO, JUST LITTLE DOUBT REMAINS.
AFTER I CAME OUT FROM THE ART STUDIO, I HAD THE WIFE TREAT MY BURNS.
I GOT A FAINT WHIFF OF GASOLINE AT THAT TIME.

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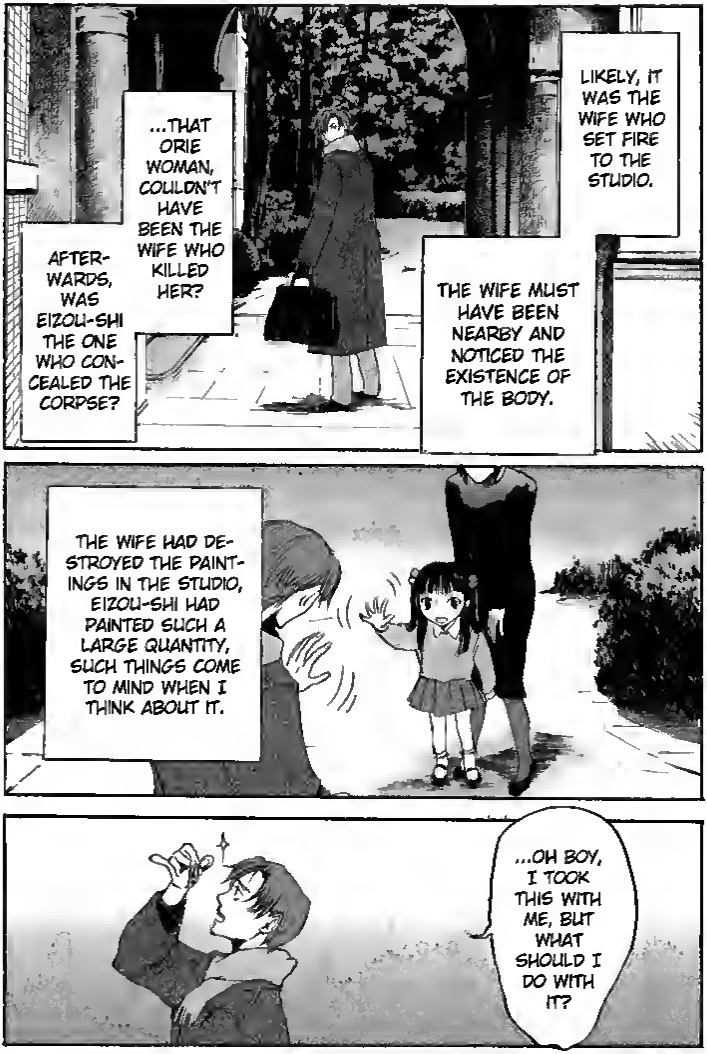
LIKELY, IT WAS THE WIFE WHO SET FIRE TO THE STUDIO.
...THAT ORIE WOMAN, COULDN'T HAVE BEEN THE WIFE WHO KILLED HER?
THE WIFE MUST HAVE BEEN NEARBY AND NOTICED THE EXISTENCE OF THE BODY.
AFTER-WARDS, WAS EIZOU-SHI THE ONE WHO CON-CEALED THE CORPSE?
THE WIFE HAD DE-STROYED THE PAINT-INGS IN THE STUDIO, EIZOU-SHI HAD PAINTED SUCH A LARGE QUANTITY, SUCH THINGS COME TO MIND WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT.
...OH BOY, I TOOK THIS WITH ME, BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH IT?

I WONDER WHY I LIED BACK THERE...
I'VE HID THIS FROM THEM ...
WAS IT WRONG OF ME ...
WHAT TO DO ...

END

CHAPTER 3
UNCHANGING DAUGHTER
(LATTER PART)

TRANSLATOR: JU-SHI
PROOFREADER: EUCALYPTA
CLEANER: KIYIYA
TYPESETTER: AL_KAZE69
QCER: ANNEX

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[THE NOBLE DETECTIVE MOTONARI'S
SPLENDID ADVENTURE]

AH, I'M BORED, BORED!
THERE'RE NO JOB OFFERS AT ALL! ISN'T THERE ANY-THING TO DO, CHIYO ~~~!!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE YELLING AT ME LIKE THAT.
PLEASE LEAVE THE ROOM, YOU'RE IN-TERFERING WITH MY CLEANING.
Should I try set-ting the garbage on fire?
Ugh.
spark
drop
OUCH!

ablaze...
ナラナラナラ...
I THINK I BURNED MY HAND.
KYAAH! MOTONARI-SAMA!
FIRE! THE FLOOR'S BURNING!!
AH, DAMN ...
WATER! HURRY UP WITH THAT WATER!
WHAT?! HAMAKO-SAMA RAN AWAY?!

PLEASE EXCUSE ME, SHE CAN RUN QUITE FAST...
THAT'S THE SANJOU FAMILY'S PRINCESS YOU KNOW! WHAT IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO HER!
RIGHT NOW, THERE MAY BE SOMEONE AFTER HAMAKO-SAMA'S LIFE!!
Haa
ALTHOUGH I PUT EVERYONE IN A BAD SPOT
BEING SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE ALL THE TIME IS TIRING TOO, AS ONE WOULD EXPECT.
...SHALL I HAVE SOME TEA?

HAMAKO-SAMA!
GYAH!
quietly
MISS CHIYO-CHAN!
HELLO!
ARE YOU HERE BY YOURSELF, HAMAKO-SAMA?
W-WELL, YES
ARE YOU OUT SHOPPING FOR SOMETHING?
YES, A NECKTIE FOR MOTONARI-SAMA
AH, OKAY.

WOULD IT BOTHER YOU IF I CHOSE A NECKTIE FOR MOTONARI-SAN?
MOTONARI-SAMA WILL BE GLAD TO HEAR HAMAKO-SAMA CHOSE HIS NECKTIE
.....
NO AT ALL! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
YOU REALLY HELPED ME OUT.
NO, NOT REALLY ...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

YOU'VE BEEN CHECKING YOUR SURROUNDINGS FOR SOME TIME NOW.
LIAR.
...MISS CHIYO-CHAN HAS A GOOD SENSE OF WHEN SOMETHING'S OFF, DON'T YOU.
HAMAKO-SAMA IS HIDING SOMETHING.

THE TRUTH IS ...
...EH?!

SOMEONE'S AFTER YOU, WHO'S THAT, HAMAKO!
SOMEONE'S AFTER YOU, YOU SAY ...

WH-WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
YOUR VOICE IS AS LOUD AS EVER ...
MOTONARI-SAMA!
I HAVE SOME BUSI-NESS TO ATTEND TO.
I CAME BECAUSE I DIDN'T HAVE A TIE TO WEAR.
NO NECK-TIE?
THIS MORNING, MOTONARI-SAMA UNINTENTION-ALLY THREW WATER OVER HIS CLOSET.

CHIYO, THE NECKTIE.
AH, SURE.
fire extinguishing
soaking
びしょびしょ
soaking
EVERY-THING IN THE CLOSET IS COMPLETELY SOAKED ...
I'M NOT SURE WHAT HAPPENED, BUT THAT SOUNDS EX-ACTLY LIKE MOTONARI-SAN.
HAMAKO-SAMA IS THE ONE WHO CHOSE THIS NECKTIE FOR YOU.
HMMM ...
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, YOU SAID SOME-ONE WAS AFTER HAMAKO! WHO IS THIS

I'M NOT BOTHERED BY IT, SO I'LL SORT IT OUT MYSELF.
YOU SURE ARE CALM ABOUT THIS.
IS IT RELATED TO SANJOU OJI-SAN BEING A MEMBER OF THE DIET?
OR A KIDNAPPING FOR RANSOM?
I'M FINE. I DON'T WANT THE HELP OF SOMEONE WHO DOES DETECTIVE WORK FOR A HOBBY.
I'LL INVESTIGATE IT FOR THE SAKE OF A CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
NO NEED TO DECLINE, I'LL PROTECT YOU, HAMAKO.
I'M FINE.

BUT I DON'T WANT YOUR HELP IN THIS, THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO TELL YOU.
THAT'S RIGHT, I'LL CANCEL MY GOLF GAME FOR TODAY.
WE'RE GOING, HAMAKO, CHIYO.
...AS USUAL, HE NEVER LISTENS TO WHAT PEOPLE SAY ...
So-sorry_
MOTONARI-SAMA HAS HAD A LOT OF FREE TIME ON HIS HANDS LATELY .
...IN OTHER WORDS, HE JUST WANTS TO KILL OFF SOME OF IT.

AS ALWAYS, THIS HOUSE IS WAY TOO BIG.
I'M BACK, I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
HA-HAMAKO-SAMA, I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE FINE——!!
KIIII
brake

MISS CHIYO-CHAN, I'M SORRY, YOU WERE FORCED TO COME HERE, EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR DINNER.
NO, IT'S ALRIGHT ...
I CALLED, AND TOLD HIS HOUSEHOLD THAT MOTONARI-SAMA WAS OUT INVESTIGATING ...
I was in the middle of steaming beans
THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M ON THE CASE NOW, SO YOU CAN REST ASSURED.
NOW THEN, I'LL HAVE YOU SHOW ME AROUND.
MOTONARI-SAMA! THIS IS THE HOME OF A DISTINGUISHED CLIENT, SO YOU MUSTN'T SPEAK LIKE THAT!

OH, IF IT ISN'T THE FOURTH SON OF IKEDA.
IT'S REALLY BEEN A WHILE. ARE YOU STAYING HEALTHY?
YES, I SURE AM.
BY THE WAY, I WONDER IF WE COULD DISCUSS MOTONARI-KUN BEING MATCHED UP WITH HAMAKO.
YES, I AM FINE WITH IT, BUT HAMAKO ...
WE'RE NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT THIS TODAY.
HAMAKO, DON'T YOU LIKE ME?
THIS IS WHY I DIDN'T WANT TO ASK YOU FOR HELP, I KNEW YOU'D BRING THIS UP ...

HAMAKO, YOU'RE ALREADY 24 YEARS OLD AND UNWEDDED. THERE AREN'T MANY MEN WHO'D TAKE YOU AS A BRIDE.
RIGHT, HAMAKO?
AAH, GEEZ! I DON'T INTEND TO BECOME A BRIDE FOR ANYONE!
HMMM,
IT'D BE NICE IF HAMAKO-SAMA MARRRIED INTO THE IKEDA FAMILY ...
AS FOR HAMAKO-SAMA, I DON'T THINK SHE HATES MOTONARI-SAMA ...
WHY WOULD THAT BE?
SHE DOES HATE HIM.
... EH?
scamper
scamper

WAH!
HMM, SO SOMEONE IS FOLLOWING YOU ALL THE TIME?
YEAH, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN MY IMAGINATION, BUT ...
OUR HOUSE SERVANT SADA IS ALSO ON THE LOOKOUT FOR SUSPICIOUS PEOPLE.
MOREOVER ...
YESTERDAY EVENING, I WAS ATTACKED.

AT-TACKED?!
YEAH, WHILE I WAS SLEEP-ING, A MAN CAME TO MY BED AND HELD ME DOWN ...
DI...
DID HE DO SOMETHING WEIRD TO YOU?! HAMAKO?!
PFFT
YOUR VOICE TURNED FUNNY.
I'M AL-RIGHT.

WERE YOU WORRIED, BY ANY CHANCE?
OF COURSE, WHY WOULDN'T I BE?
HE RAN AWAY WHEN I RAISED MY VOICE.
... I SEE
HAMAKO-SAMA~~~ WHERE DID THE INTRUDER COME IN, AND WHERE DID HE GO?
MISS CHIYO-CHAN
YOU DON'T HAVE TO STAY AND WAIT OUTSIDE, COME IN.
No, I'll stay here.
IT'S FINE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

...THE MAN CAME IN THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR, IT SEEMS.
WHO? ME?
COME FROM THE DOOR,
THEN, PLEASE EXCUSE ME.
AH, OKAY, MOTONARI-SAMA, PLEASE PERFORM THE ROLE OF THE IN-TRUDER
NOW MAKE LIKE YOU'RE LOOKING INTO MY FACE.
YOUR HAND IS RIGHT HERE, ON THE SIDE BY MY ...
march
march
トコ
TOWARDS ME, WHO IS SLEEP-ING ON THE BED ...
THERE, THERE, HAMAKO, LIE DOWN LIKE THIS.

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HEA
...
KYAAH!

Extremely wonderful-
WONDERFUL~~~
SO ROMANTIC— IT'S LIKE A LOVE STORY ~~~
Miss Chiyo-chan is one strange girl, isn't she...
Yeah...
spin
spin
MOTONARI-SAMA AND HAMAKO-SAMA, YOU REALLY SUIT EACH OTHER AFTER ALL~~~!!
Huh...?
...ANYWAYS, WHAT HAPPENED THEN?
I SHOUTED LOUDLY, SO HE TOOK OFF RUNNING.
WHERE TO?
push...
TO THE DOOR WERE HE ENTERED

HOW RUDE, I DID PROPERLY LOCKED IT BEFORE SLEEPING.
HERE'S THE KEY.
SO YOU'RE SAYING THE CULPRIT ENTERED AND LEFT THROUGH THE SAME DOOR?
HAMAKO, YOU'RE CARELESS TO SLEEP WITHOUT LOCKING YOUR ROOM.
HAMAKO-SAMA,
THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE.
BUT THERE IS A KEY RING IN THE KITCHEN WITH ALL THE KEYS IN THE HOUSE ...
EXCEPTING THE ONE YOU CARRY, HOW MANY KEYS ARE THERE TO THIS ROOM?
WE MUST CONSIDER ...
...IF SO, IT MEANS THAT THE PEOPLE WHO CAN OPEN THIS DOOR ARE LIMITED TO A FEW.

THOSE OF THIS HOUSE-HOLD ...
bam
HAMAKO!!!
OTOU-SAMA?!
I HEARD A WOMAN'S SCREAM ...
... SCREAM?
...CHIYO'S SCREAM FROM BEFORE ...?
Kya!
EX-EXCUSE ME!!
!

!
AH!
HAMAKO, MOTONARI-KUN
YOUR POSITIONS
flap
flap
U-UM, YOU SEE, MASTER SANJOU-SAMA, I MADE THESE TWO DO ...
...YOU'RE SO RESERVED.
パーン
bang
IF YOU HAVE THIS SORT OF RELATIONSHIP, IT'S BETTER TO TELL ME EARLY ON, OTHERWISE I'LL BE TROUBLED.
...Eh?

パラ…
crack..
…… !?
GUN ….!!
brandish
HAMAKO-SAMA IS MINE!
!!
DON'T TOUCH HAMAKO-SAMA …

わあああっ
WAAAAH!
Grab
SOMEHOW, YOU... SOMEHOW, TO YOU ...
.....
MOTON-ARI-SAN, YOU'RE WOUNDED ...!!

I, JUU-ROU, AM IN LOVE WITH HAMAKO-SAMA
IF SUCH AN IRRESPONSI-BLE MAN IS GOING TO STEAL HER AWAY JUST BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE SAME SOCIAL STATUS ..
JUUROU!
WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU THINK-ING!?
MOTONARI MOTONARI-SAMA..

KYEE
SPORTS
I'LL KILL HAMAKO-SAMA AND DIE AS WELL!!
...THIS IS THE GUY WHO'S AFTER HAMAKO ...

tremble
tremble
MOTONARI-SAMA ...
MOTONARI-SAMA IS WOUNDED ...!!
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? HE WANTS TO KILL US.
WELL, WHAT CAN WE DO IN THIS USE-LESS STATE?
DOES THIS MAN BELONG TO THIS HOUSE-HOLD?
HE'S BEEN OUR MAN-SERVANT FOR A YEAR NOW.

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CHIYO, STOP IT ALREADY,
YOU'RE GOING TO KILL HIM.
shake
shake
shake
gush
gush
WAAAAH!
tears falling
...'THE CASE OF THE MUTILATED BOWL OF BEANS'?
WHO ADDED SUCH A WHACKY NAME TO THE CASE INCIDENT FILE ...
...IT WAS MOTONARI-SAMA.
AH, WE RECEIVED A REWARD FOR YOU, CHIYO-BOU, FROM HAMAKO-SAMA

What am I saying of my assistant?
...I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED WHETHER CHIYOBOU WOULD BE MORE SUITED OF BEING A DETECTIVE THAN MOTONARI-SAMA. AFTER ALL,
YOU HAVE QUITE THE FIGHTING ABILITY ...
THAT'S NOT TRUE YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND, KENMOCHI-SAN
MOTONARI-SAMA IS ACTUALLY A REALLY WONDERFUL DETECTIVE!
Hmm... In what way is he a wonderful detective?
IT SEEMS HE'S GONE TO THE SANJOU'S ESTATE, HOWEVER
WAIT JUST A MINUTE, HAMAKO!
I TOLD YOU, I'M NOT GOING TO GET MARRIED! WHOSE WEDDING PREPARATIONS ARE THESE!!

END

《初出》
死神探偵と憂鬱温泉――――Bstreet vol.1（2000年2月）・vol.2（2000年8月）
変わらぬ娘（前編）――――Bstreet vol.4（2001年2月）
変わらぬ娘（後編）――――Bstreet vol.5（2001年5月）
華族探偵素成の華麗なる冒険――Bstreet vol.3（2000年11月）

バーズコミックス
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CHAPTER 4 (END)

[THE NOBLE DETECTIVE MOTONARI'S SPLENDID ADVENTURE]

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PROOFREADER: EUCALYPTA
CLEANER: ANNEX
TYPESETTER: AI_KAZE69
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